

Sunday Services
9:00 and 11:00

Sunday School P-5th: 9 and 11

6th – 8th Grade: 9 am
9th – 12th Grade: 11 am
Adult Class: 10 – 11

January 1, 10:00 AM
Happy New Year Pigskin Classic
Kennedy High School football field

January 2
New Sermon Series Begins
See page 4

January 5
New Projector and Screen
See page 5

January 9
Pathways Class Begins
'Beginning with the Bible'
See page 9

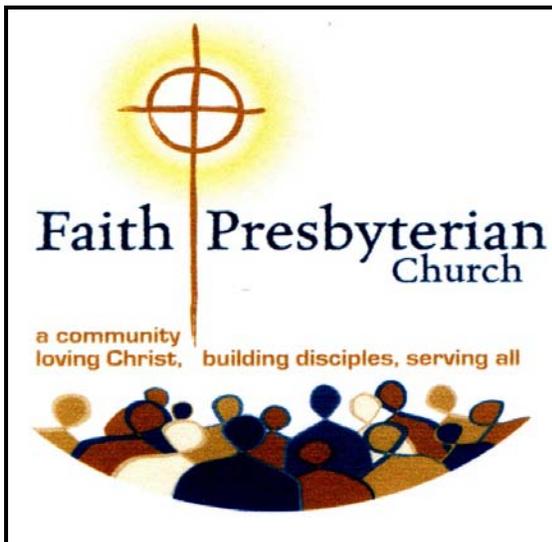
January 18-19
Citrus Gleaning
See page 6

January 26
PW Luncheon
See page 5

January 30
Faith Family Night
See page 11

*The PresbyNews is published monthly
by a team of volunteer writers.*

*Please send your submissions to Editor
Suzy Hughes at
suzan_hughes@synectics.net
Or, drop off articles/photos in the
church office.*



**New Director of Children's
Ministries:
Christine Mendoza**

Session is pleased to announce the appointment of Christine Mendoza to the position of Director of Children's Ministries. Out of several candidates, the Children's Director Search Committee selected Christine and recommended her to Session.

Please see Page 2 for the complete story.

Thank you, Christine, for all you do for our kids!

PresbyNews

January 2011
Volume 36 Number 1
Published at
625 Florin Road
Sacramento CA 95831
916-428-3439
www.faithpresby.org

Pastor Jeff Chapman
Associate Pastors
Jim Zazzera,
Patrick Vaughn, Quinn
Vaughn

Next PresbyNews Deadline
January 22



Our Faith Family



Faith's Team World Vision raises money for the Abaya ADP

Thank you for your prayers, support and donations to Team World Vision in their endeavor to run the 2010 California International Marathon on December 4, 2010 to raise money for Abaya. The team raised \$1,620 for the Abaya Area Development Project, the partnership Faith has entered into through World Vision.

Kim Char, who has become an avid long-distance runner, led Team World Vision's effort. Kim ran the entire marathon (26.2 miles from Folsom to the State Capitol), battling a leg injury but staying focused on the children of Abaya who would benefit from the money raised. She also recruited two relay teams: Natalie Reyes, Shari Reyes, Cindy Canaday and Rhonda Hankey formed one team, and Quinn Vaughn, Patrick Vaughn, Sarah Jimenez and Emily Bagby formed the other team. Each relay team member ran between 5.7 and 7.6 mile legs. For many of the relay team members, the CIM was the longest distance they had ever run or walked. Although it was a challenge, there were many smiles in the end.

The team greatly appreciates your support of them, and, for once again, stepping forward to help the people of Abaya.

The Long-Awaited Photo Directories Are Here!

If you have not already picked up your copy, stop in and do so today! These books are a great way to help connect us as a community. That person you see every Sunday but can't remember their name, now you have a way! Many thanks to Jim and Barbara Tracy for their tireless and creative efforts in getting this into our hands!

New Director of Children's Ministries: Christine Mendoza

Session is pleased to announce the appointment of Christine Mendoza to the position of Director of Children's Ministries. Out of several candidates, the Children's Director Search Committee selected Christine and recommended to Session thru the Personnel Elder to hire her.

Christine's professional and educational experience and her commitment to following Christ were the areas which most impressed the search committee, who felt that she was the most qualified candidate. Christine is the owner/director of a Montessori Country Academy in Elk Grove, giving her experience in developing curriculum, preparing and conducting teacher training, and knowledge of safety policies. She is also seeking a certificate in spiritual guidance for children through a continuing education programs.

Christine's statement about spiritual development for the children of Faith is the following: "I understand the importance of a ministry that not only lays the foundation for Bible study, memorization and prayer, but also challenges and encourages children to grow and deepen in their relations with Jesus Christ."

Many of you will also recognize Christine as the current Elder for Children's Ministries, a role which has provided her with direct experience in Faith's children's programs during the last two and half years.

Christine will officially begin in this position the middle of January. We are all looking forward to her enthusiasm, creativity, integrity, kindness, accountability and prayerfulness in carrying out the duties of this position as she serves and works with the children of Faith.

Lastly, many thanks for the dedicated work of the following members of the Children's Director Search Committee: Glenda Arellano (chair); Lee Bush; Vicky Chastain; Mark Hubler; Patrick Vaughn (staff advisor).





Pastor's Column

Re-imagining Christmas and Epiphany

Pastor Patrick Vaughn

Merry Christmas! Yes, it's still Christmas and it will be until January 6th and then it will be Happy Epiphany. When I was in college I studied in Granada, Spain for a semester. Christmas came and went with what seemed like average celebrations, but Epiphany was something else entirely.

We have the Macy's day parade on Thanksgiving when Santa shows up but in Spain some of their biggest parades are on Epiphany with the arrival of the Reyes Magos, aka magi, or wise men. As an outsider, I was struck by the festivities and traditions surrounding Epiphany because I had never really thought of celebrating Epiphany. In fact I didn't really even know what Epiphany was. Traditionally, Epiphany celebrates several things, which all point to Jesus revealing God to humans. The arrival of the Wise Men celebrate God's love revealed to non-Jews (Gentiles), Jesus baptism reveals Jesus identity when a voice from heaven proclaims, "you are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11), and Jesus first miracles in Cana at the beginning of John's gospel show us both the character of God's love and power in Jesus. God in Christ reveals to us the depths and presence of God's love for us; Epiphany calls our attention to this reality.



Again this season, like my time in Spain, I find myself thinking about the meaning of Epiphany and Christmas. My biggest question this time is: how do we make Christmas Christian? How do I make this season in my home and in my life more about the revelation of God's love in Jesus and less about presents, party planning, a busy schedule and excess? These are tough questions that Quinn and I have been wrestling with this year, not because we're pastors but because we want to know and follow Jesus more intimately. As parents we want to help Whitworth to know Jesus and anxiously await his coming as the Son of God in Bethlehem and in the future as King of Kings.

These are tough questions but they are not new ones for followers of Christ. Christmas and Epiphany have always been side by side with secular/pagan celebrations; that's the reality of our existence. So to face the challenging question - how do I live as a follower of Christ in this season? - we must be willing to examine our traditions and be honest about what they really celebrate or honor. For example, you may need to sit down for this one, instead of trying to make Santa a Christian, let's be honest. He's a jolly old guy who is more akin to mythical characters like Paul Bunyan and the Loch Ness Monster than the actual Saint Nicholas. If we want to celebrate Saint Nicholas then we should do it on December 6th, the traditional day in the church for doing so, and we should do so by serving children who are poor, the reason why Nicholas is a Saint - and by the way he was from Turkey, not the North Pole. I'm not saying, "down with Santa", but let's not make him something he's not. Maybe the question is: Can Christians participate in the secular tradition of Santa and celebrate Christ's birth simultaneously?

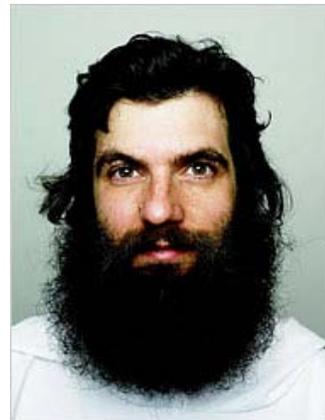
Let's stop trying to make secular traditions Christian and think about how to celebrate these traditions as Christians. Let's reclaim those traditions that do celebrate and honor the birth and revelation of Jesus Christ and when necessary stop practicing those that dishonor Christ. I don't have the space to think them all over, but asking questions like these and thinking through them can't be done alone. In 1 Peter the church is referred to as a bunch of aliens and exiles in this world. Being aliens and exiles is lonely and hard because some of our ways of life will be counter culture, laughed at, and strange to the world around us. As aliens and exiles we need a community that reminds each other that we are God's own people, citizens of God's kingdom, and as such "[we] ... proclaim the mighty acts of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 1:9). Our traditions and practices, our speech and our lives ought to proclaim God's love for the world that broke forth as light into the darkness some 2000 years ago. "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5). To do so we need each other to challenge, support, question, re-imagine, and celebrate the love of God revealed in Christ.

The Year of Loving Biblically

New Sermon Series Begins January 2nd!

In 2007, an editor from Esquire magazine named A.J. Jacobs set out on a journey that would change his life and make headlines around the world. The author, a Jew who once read his way through the entire Encyclopedia Britannica to write the book “The Know-it-All”, set aside an entire year to try to follow all the commands of the Old Testament. In his words, “If I wanted to understand my forefathers, this year would let me live like they did, but with less leprosy.”

After typing out every instruction he could find in the Old Testament (72 typed pages worth!), he set up a month-by-month plan to try them out. Then he set out to try to live by these instructions and rules for an entire year. Every one of them! Including sporting a shaggy beard and long white robe around Manhattan (talk about fear the beard!). His book, *The Year of Living Biblically*, chronicles his experience.



When it was all said and done, the whole project actually came across as a bit of gimmick as much as serious pilgrimage of faith. Still, the idea of this sort of commitment has intrigued me. What would it be like to commit a year to try and live in all the ways scripture commands us to live? Sure, that’s something many of us are already trying, with God’s help, to do. But what would it be like to intentionally set aside one calendar year to place this goal as *the absolute top priority*?

And if one were to do such a thing, which commands would you follow? There are over 600 individual commandments in the Old Testament alone and many of them seem to have little, if any, contemporary relevance. Trying to follow the 10 Commandments would be one thing, but do we really want to go a whole year without shaving or cutting our hair, or eating pork products, or wearing any clothing that is woven from two different kinds of materials? (Yes, that is a command. Check out Leviticus 19:19.)



Then I remembered how Jesus, at one point in his teaching, had said that all of God’s commands in scripture can actually be summed up in just two commands. Love your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the other commands, Jesus said, are caught up in these two.

So what would it be like for a person to give one year to following just these two commands? What would it be like for *a whole church* to try to follow these two commands for a year? Would such an effort be easier than what Mr. Jacobs attempted? I doubt it. Would it even be possible? I wonder.

I want to ask you to make sure you join us in worship on Sunday, January 2nd. The beginning of the New Year is always a good time for making resolutions and I have one I’d like to ask you to consider. As I’ve already hinted, it has to do with love. It has to do with what, according to Jesus, is the absolute most important thing we can ever do in life. It has to do with a commitment which, I believe, has life-transforming potential over the course of this coming year.

Intrigued? I hope so. Because I can’t wait to begin this next step of the journey with you. Grace & Peace – Jeff

40 Health Tips for 2011

1. Drink plenty of water.
2. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a beggar.
3. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants.
4. Live with the 3 E's -- Energy, Enthusiasm and Empathy.
5. Make time to pray.
6. Play more games.
7. Read more books than you did in 2010.
8. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.
9. Sleep for 7 hours.
10. Take a 10-30 minute walk daily. And while you walk, smile.
11. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
12. Don't have negative thoughts about things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.
13. Don't overdo. Keep your limits.
14. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
15. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip.
16. Dream more while you are awake.
17. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
18. Forget issues of the past. Don't remind your partner wof His/her mistakes of the past. That will ruin your present happiness.
19. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone. Don't hate others.
20. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.
21. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
22. Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are simply part of the curriculum that appear and fade away like algebra class but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.
23. Smile and laugh more.
24. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
25. Call your family often.
26. Each day give something good to others.
27. Forgive everyone for everything.
28. Spend time with people over the age of 70 & under the age of 6.
29. Try to make at least three people smile each day.
30. What other people think of you is none of your business.
31. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.
32. Do the right thing!
33. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
34. Advocate Peace and Justice.
35. GOD heals everything.
36. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
37. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
38. The best is yet to come.
39. When you awake alive in the morning, thank GOD for it.
40. Your Inner self is always happy. So, be happy.

New Projector and Screen Installation

A new video projector and screen will be installed in the Sanctuary January 5th, in addition to a new PC system to drive the projector. The project was a part of the larger "Make a Joyful Noise" project approved in 2008 which included new acoustic treatment throughout the Sanctuary to eliminate echo, a new audio system, the creation of a new Media Center, and acoustic flooring and treatment in the Narthex. Wally Smith spearheaded the project with help from the Acoustics Improvement committee and Andy Field from Substrate Engineering. In addition a new kiosk style TV monitor will be added in the Narthex with a Power Point presentation promoting events and opportunities at Faith Church. Thank you to all for your enthusiastic support of this project.

Faith Family Night

For the whole family (with children 0- 18)

**4th Sunday
each month**

January 30th

4- 6 p.m.

LINK HALL

Get support, equipped and encouraged in the great call to disciple our children in Faith in Christ.

Fellowship, food, fun and discipleship for the whole family.

All family game time

Breakout Sessions

Dinner (donations at the door)



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



***Bible Study, Lunch, Fellowship,
a guest speaker and fun!***

January 26th

10 a.m. Bible Study

11:30 Guest speaker Michelle DeSante

"Women Empowerment"

Bring a sack lunch

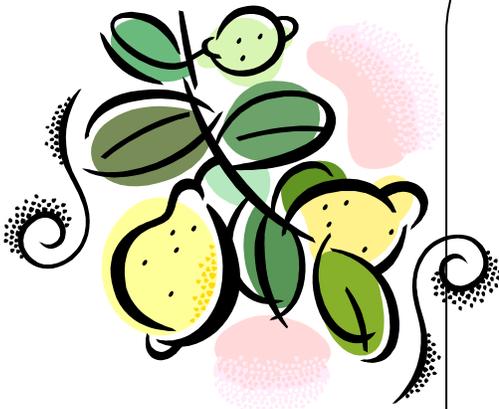
Link Hall

The Ramos Family – Church Decorators Extraordinaire

What a privilege it is to have Kathy and Randy Ramos leading our volunteer team in decorating Faith Church for Advent and Christmas again this year. They tell us what to do, and we simply do it. It's very clear that Kathy loves Christmas wreaths, and the church has several besides the one included in the Hanging of the Greens celebration to kick off Advent.

Kathy and Randy start planning for the decoration day weeks in advance, and they have a plan and all of the materials on hand before the big tree arrives and folks join in the fun, fueled by coffee and doughnuts. The Giving Tree, poinsettias, wreaths and garlands, Advent candles and crèche are only up for four weeks of the year, but the sanctuary is always beautifully adorned throughout December, no matter what the weather is like outside. And, this is due to the artistic flair and hard work of Kathy and Randy Ramos, with an assist from their daughters Monique and Christina and the dedicated volunteers of the Faith community.

Thank you, Ramos Family and all those who answered the call to come and help this year.



Citrus Gleaning

Have an abundance of citrus or other fruit in your yard and wish it could help families in need? Faith's youth groups - Munchies and Crew - can help you out! The groups will be gleaning fruit to be donated to SSIP on Tuesday, January 18 and Wednesday, January 19 between 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. This is the third year the youth groups have taken on this service project, visiting the homes of congregation members, picking excess oranges, lemons, grapefruit and other fruit, and donating it to SSIP. The youth will bring clippers, gloves and extra lighting, and there is no cost or need to make a donation on your part.

Please contact Sarah Jimenez, youth group service project coordinator, at (916) 376-7079 or at sarahjimenez@hotmail.com and let her know what night would be best for the youth to visit your home. The group can only visit 4 - 5 homes each night, so please contact Sarah soon. If you have any questions, see Sarah or Patrick Vaughn.

Update from the Finance Team

I would like to take a few moments to introduce our new pledge secretaries, **but first a little bit of history.**

The pledge secretary is appointed by session to keep track of annual pledges and giving to the church. The pledge secretary is the only person to receive the pledge cards submitted during the Stewardship Pledge Campaign. Each week she/he receives a statement from the tellers reporting on all receipts deposited for the week. Several times throughout the year the pledge secretary might send out statements to people who pledge informing them of the fulfillment of their pledge. At the end of the year the pledge secretary is responsible for sending giving statements which will satisfy individual tax reporting needs.

Our pledge secretary for the last three years was Doran McDaniel. Most of Doran's work was behind the scenes and quiet so you may not know that she dedicated several hours each week to the accurate accounting of the church's receipts. The Treasurer and Finance Elder are greatly indebted to the accurate and timely work of Doran. It was with sadness that we accepted Doran's early departure from the position as she and her husband Walt moved to Arizona. Doran continued her work through the end of the 2010 fiscal year, including sending out year-end statements. Thank you Dorie!!!

Barbara Brown and I (Maria Rodriguez) will **share the position of pledge secretary for 2011.** Why are we sharing the position? Primarily the reason for the shared position is that our outside financial advisor/CPA/auditor recommends that two people share this position. We are advised that a shared position will better insure accurate and true reporting on year-end financial tax records. Secondly, the work is significant and timely reporting is essential. Barbara and I anticipate times when each of us will not be readily available to do the work and sharing will allow us to fulfill the responsibilities appropriately.

Barbara Brown has been a member here at Faith since 1974. She has served as elder for Christian Education and on more committees than even she can remember. She and her husband Bert reliably support our area food closet with their time. I am currently the Finance elder. My term expires in June and I will then be able to dedicate more time to the pledge secretary position. I also work as the financial, membership, and facilities administrator at Davis Community Church. With that job I have grown familiar with the giving database and reporting process and know that I can work with Barbara to make this transition time go smoothly.

If you have any questions feel free to contact one of us. Happy New Year all! -- Maria Rodriguez

2010 Stewardship Campaign Update

Your Response Has Been Wonderfully Generous!

Thanks to all of you who have dedicated your financial pledge to the ministry of Faith in 2011. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the Faith community. It is truly remarkable that in these times of economic instability to see the people of this congregation continue to give so sacrificially and faithfully.

Total pledges as of December 13th totaled \$632,223. We still have a ways to go but are getting ever closer to our goal! So, if you have not yet turned in your pledge card, there is still plenty of time to do so (we have extras at church). Please feel free to contact any of the Session or staff if you have any questions. Our pledge secretaries, Barbara Brown and Maria Rodriguez will be sending out letters of confirmation to all those who have pledged.

Pledge envelopes are now available to be picked up in the Welcome Center here at church. Stop by and pick yours up. If you don't have a set but would like one, let us know. Also, if you are unable to come get your envelopes, please contact the church office and we can mail them to you.



From Your Deacons

In January, the deacons will be serving cake after both services on the 16th and again on the 23rd. We are hoping to see you there, and get to know you a little better!

In the meantime, we want you to know we are here for you in your time of need, whether it is illness, sorrow, celebration, or prayer. The deacons arrange and provide meals in time of need, offer prayer blankets for those needing comfort, Care Notes for reflection and comfort, assistance with memorial services, new baby blessings, new home blessings, communion to our home bound Faith family, and celebration of life candles. In addition, each deacon is part of the prayer chain, honoring all prayer requests, as well as keeping our parishes in prayer.

We wish all our Faith family a blessed, healthy, and Happy New Year, and look forward to serving you all year!

Care Notes Ministry

Care Notes are a ministry and tradition here at Faith provided by the Deacons. Care Notes are articles written by experts in their field on various topics that minister to the needs of people in times of illness, death, unemployment, grief, suffering, divorce and the like. They can be found in the narthex and are available to anyone. Please help yourself.

Care notes are provided all year long but during Advent and Lent the Care Note themes focus on the challenges we may face during the holidays and holy days. May these words of encouragement reach the hearts and needs of those we love and care for. Your suggestions or comments may be directed to Gail Kinkennon at 393-7529 or gkinkennon@saclibrary.org.

Our Family Promise Fulfilled for 2010

As we all celebrate the blessings of the Christmas season and the coming of the new year it seems a good time to update you on the Family Promise ministry. During 2010 Family Promise of Sacramento hosted 12 different families in the program. They hired a new executive director, Marsha Spell, and a new Case Manager, Annie Hooper. A new trailer was purchased to transport the mattresses and a new hosting congregation, B'Nai Israel, was added. In April the Board of Directors held a Five Year Anniversary Celebration which was well attended and proved to be a successful fundraiser. The Day Center continues to receive funds from recycling cell phones and printer cartridges (receptacles are in the Narthex.)

Here at Faith we provided shelter, food and fellowship during our 4 weeks. We would like to thank our many volunteers who participated throughout the year. Without your dedication and generous participation, this program could not survive. We are forever thankful to each of you for sharing your time and talents.

We would also like to thank the members of our leadership team: Jo and Larry Thommen, Tanya Anderson, and Roy Bagby. A special thank you goes to Glenda Arellano who served as our food shopper for the last 5 years and Jeff Brown who was one of our Set/Up and Take/Down Leaders. We would like to welcome Rhonda Hankey to the job of shopper and Lee Bush and John Latimer to the Set/Up and Take/Down team.

In the coming year of 2011 our church will be hosting just 3 weeks instead of the usual 4. This is due to the fact that there are more than 13 congregations who host in Sacramento and it is our turn to allow other congregations a chance to host 4 times. The new schedule will be the weeks of February 13th, May 8th and October 9th. The white board is ready for sign ups and we encourage any members who have never volunteered to give it a try. It is a great way to serve others as well as make new connections within our own congregation. In Christ, Cynthia Crow and Kelly Latimer

Opportunities to Get Involved

Pathways to Discipleship 2010-2011

'Beginning With the Bible' Begins Sunday, January 9th!

This next *Pathways* course is a fantastic opportunity to discover what the Bible is, how to study it, and how to make it a regular part of your day-to-day life. This is a 6-week course facilitated by Pastor Jim Zazzera and begins Sunday morning, January 9th. We will meet from 10:15-11:30 in Room 2. All are welcome!



Presby Women

This is the Presby Women Calendar for 2011. We're inviting all women of Faith to join us. Please look at these dates and if you're able to join us for any or all, we'd love to have you! We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month in Link Hall. Mary Patterson leads our bible study. If you would like more information, contact our Moderator, Virgie Cornelius – 747-3827 or Kitty Tatro – 393-4734.

January 26, 11:30 AM ~ Michelle DeSante will be our guest speaker on "Women Empowerment". Please bring a sack lunch. Bible study at 10:00 AM.

February 23, 11:30 AM ~ Lee Mahia will be our guest speaker on "De-cluttering & Organizing". Our mission project will be to help with the Youth 30 hr. Famine Potluck dinner. Lunch will be provided. Bible study at 10:00 AM.

March 23, 11:30 AM ~ Rose Bierly will be our guest Speaker on "Elder Abuse & Cooking & Eating Healthy". Our mission project will be to bring food for the S.S.I.P. Food Closet. Please bring a sack lunch. Bible study at 10:00 AM.

April 27, 11:30 AM ~ Walter Newport will be our guest speaker on "Staying Healthy". We're inviting all the MEN to join us for this. Lunch will be provided. Bible study at 10:00 AM.

May 25, 11:30 AM ~ We will be installing our new PW officers for 2011-2012 at this meeting. Our mission project will be the "Mosquito Nets Project". Please bring a sack lunch. Bible study at 10:00 AM.

June 22, 11:30 AM ~ We will have a potluck luncheon. The place is yet to be determined.

Faith Crafter's Club Sale Serves Locally and Globally

Each Monday, 1-3 p.m. the Faith Presbyterian Church Crafter's Club meets in room 2 for Fellowship and to work on craft projects. Two years ago they decided to knit hats, scarves and gloves, and sell them to benefit a designated organization.

In 2009 the funds raised benefited Eagles Wings Ministries in Zambia, where you may recall Kim Char and Jenny May both visited on a mission trip. Many people purchased hats, etc., for themselves or presents, others donated them to the Giving Tree which were delivered to St. John's Shelter.

This year the group decided to designate the funds received for the Abaya, Ethiopia Area Development Project which Faith Church has partnered with World Vision, and any items donated to the Giving Tree to Loaves and Fishes. This year over 200 items were for sale at the Crafter's table. Jean Kern sold hats the Sunday before Christmas in the Narthex and indicated over \$1,500 was collected and 46 sets of hats/scarves/gloves that were donated to the giving tree were delivered to Loaves and Fishes by Lisa Swanson-Miller. Left over hats were given to various other organizations to be distributed to those in need.

If you are interested in joining the Crafter's Club either show up with your craft supplies or contact Jan Sperling for more information.



Session Report

What is Session? Session is the governing body of our congregation. Made up of 17 members (pastors and elders) who are called by God and elected by the congregation, the Session is charged by God to oversee the ministry and mission of Faith Presbyterian Church. By God's grace, Session works hard to make sure that we are becoming, day by day, the sort of church God wants us to become – *A community loving Christ, building disciples, serving all.*

What has Session been up to lately? The following are some of the decisions which were made this month at Session 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!

- **Session Christmas Dinner** – As is tradition, Session gathered off-site this month to enjoy a Christmas dinner prepared by the pastors. We also took an extended time to share with one another how we are most grateful to Christ this past year. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and worship. Our limited, but important, business this month includes the following.
- **Stoking the Fires of Faith** – Session approved the use of \$400 from our Lay Ministry Stoking the Fires of Faith fund to help support one of our college students, Mary Petralli to attend a Young Ilfe College Ministries Summit with Pastor Quinn Vaughn in February, 2011. A reminder that this fund is established to help members of the Faith community receive training for ministry. Interested applicants should contact elder Sue Hooper and the Lay Ministry Team.
- **Christmas Eve Offering Will Go Out the Door** – Once again this year, Session voted to commit 100% of our Christmas Eve offerings to mission. This year the funds will be directed towards the Winter Sanctuary ministry of Sacramento Steps Forward, an interfaith project which will help to provide short-term housing for the homeless in our city this winter. For more information, go to www.sacramentostepsforward.com
- **Faith Membership Reaches 500!** – The Session celebrated the fact that with our latest group of new members our membership has crossed this threshold.
- **Special Budget Meeting Held on December 19th** – At the request of Finance elder, Maria Rodriguez, Session had a special meeting in preparation for approval of our 2011 operating budget. Time was spent understanding the projected income and expenses for 2011. We also reviewed current year figures. Session is confident that we will be able to approve the 2011 budget at our January 10th meeting.
- **Christine Mendoza Hired as Our New Children's Director!** – Session enthusiastically received a recommendation from our Children's Director Search Committee, headed by Personnel Team member Glenda Arellano, to hire our own Christine Mendoza as the new Director. Please see the article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information on this exciting news. At our January 10th meeting, the Session will finalize the employment details in anticipation for a mid-January start date.

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 under the "leadership": page.

www.faithpresby.org

Faith Family Ministry

By Pastor Quinn Vaughn

The work is never done.

This is the mentality (or should I say the reality) of monastic life. I don't know a whole lot about monastic life, but what I gather is that their lives are much simpler than ours – daily community work, prayer, eating and sleep (this is a crude simplification of course). And even with that simple life style they still recognize that

The work is never done.

Now when we say this (those of us outside the monastic community) it is accompanied by a frantic chuckle and sighs as we, with best intentions, plug on with our “daily grind”. And we have all these gadgets to “help us stay on top of it” - calendars that beep at us, phones that connect us, Bluetooths that free our hands to multi-task, computers that web us with the world.

The work is never done and we are reminded of that with every beep and ring. Sometimes all we can do is throw our hands up and let go.

The monastic communities have rings too...

But the rings are different.

Their bells book-end their work; they call them to the next task - from job, to prayer, to eating, to sleep.

The work is never done, so they know that they must release it to the LORD.

Do you hear the difference?

They are not negligent, letting go of “their work” into the abyss.

They are trusting that the eternal God is always present and that their relationship with this God must always be front and center, attended to and the relationship from which they move.

I hear so many of us saying (even hear it come out of my own mouth sometimes):

When the work is done then we will spend time with our God.

Wait, he is always with us.

When the work is done then we will go be with our community in worship (Services or Youth Groups).

Wait, the work is never done.

When the work is done then I will pray and call my kids to prayer.

Wait, the work is never done.

I don't know about you, but I want to live more simply, I want to live with the monastic kind of bells in my life, I want my son to grow up in this, I long for our community to gather even though the work is never done.

To be reminded that the eternal God is always present, that our relationship with this God is front and center, that our relationship with God is the place from which we can move!

We need it, our kids need it, our world needs it.

If you are longing for this too, please come and join us at Family Nights.

We will gather around longings like this to encourage, support and equip one another to live with the LORD.

Every 4th Sunday from 4-6:15pm in Link Hall
Jan 30th, Feb 27th, March 27th, April 17th, May 29th and June 26th (Family BBQ)

JANUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Meeting	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 7:00 AM Al Anon Meeting 9:00 AM Bible Study Fellowship 11:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Munchies ~ Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	29 6:30 AM Prayer Gathering 6:30 PM Young Adults Life Group 7:00 PM Crew ~ High School Youth Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	30 2:00 PM Older Adult Life Group 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM College/20s Life Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	31  OFFICE CLOSED	1  10:00 AM Youth Pigskin Classic
2 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Meeting	3 1:30 AM Mens' Life Group 1:00 PM Crafters' Club 7:00 PM Women's AA Meeting	4 7:00 AM Al Anon Meeting 9:00 AM Bible Study Fellowship 11:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Munchies ~ Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	5 6:30 AM Prayer Gathering 2:00 PM Adult Discussion Group 6:30 PM Young Adults Life Group 7:00 PM Crew ~ High School Youth Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	6 2:00 PM Older Adult Life Group 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM College/20s Life Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	7 8:00 PM AA Meeting	8
9 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM Deacons' Meeting 12:30 PM Lay Ministry Team Meeting 12:30 PM Look @ Faith class 8:00 PM AA Meeting	10 1:30 AM Mens' Life Group 1:00 PM Crafters' Club 7:00 PM Session Meeting 7:00 PM Women's AA Meeting	11 7:00 AM Al Anon Meeting 9:00 AM Bible Study Fellowship 11:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Munchies ~ Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	12 6:30 AM Prayer Gathering 6:30 PM Young Adults Life Group 7:00 PM Crew ~ High School Youth Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	13 2:00 PM Older Adult Life Group 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM College/20s Life Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	14 8:00 PM AA Meeting	15
16 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Meeting	17 1:30 AM Mens' Life Group 1:00 PM Crafters' Club 7:00 PM Women's AA Meeting	18 7:00 AM Al Anon Meeting 9:00 AM Bible Study Fellowship 11:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Munchies ~ Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	19 6:30 AM Prayer Gathering 6:30 PM Young Adults Life Group 7:00 PM Crew ~ High School Youth Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	20 2:00 PM Older Adult Life Group 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM College/20s Life Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	21 8:00 PM AA Meeting	22
23 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Meeting	24 1:30 AM Mens' Life Group 1:00 PM Crafters' Club 7:00 PM Women's AA Meeting	25 7:00 AM Al Anon Meeting 9:00 AM Bible Study Fellowship 11:00 AM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Munchies ~ Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	26 6:30 AM Prayer Gathering 10:00 AM PW Bible Study 11:30 AM PW Meeting/Luncheon 6:00 PM Communications Meeting 6:30 PM Young Adults Life Group 7:00 PM Crew ~ High School Youth Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	27 2:00 PM Older Adult Life Group 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM College/20s Life Group 8:00 PM AA Meeting	28 8:00 PM AA Meeting	29
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	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
Worship Service	9:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	7:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
Acolyte	Noel Chapman	Jacqueline Laybourn	James Kubish	Maddie Nashimi	Godebo Chapman
Audio Operator	Bill Baker	Don Sperling	David Nash	Rick Hom	Rick Hom
Coffee Hosts					
Greeters	Teri and Dave Williamson	Barbara Mendoza Kristi Kampel	Larry and Noreen Freund	John and Sally Ravas	Mary Nabers Marvette Swayzer
Offering Escort	Norma McKay	Don Sperling	Maria Rodriguez	Don Sperling	
Ushers	Bob McCarroll Wendy Benjamin	Bill and Em Baker	Bert and Barbara Brown	Charlie Tucker Virginia Escalante	John and Sally Ravas
Worship Assistant	Helen Frisch	Jon Coupal	Courtney Turner	Hal Turner	Mike Nichols
Worship Service	11:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	11:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m.
Acolyte	Colin Reynolds	Daniel Foley Cameron Cowling	Joshua Clark	Nya Mitchell	Amy Arellano
Audio Operator	Joe Parente	David Nash	Ken Finch	Joe Parente	Carroll Collier
Coffee Hosts					
Greeters	Bill and Dee Nicholas	Deborah Dunn John Liddle	Jim and Barbara Tracy	Jean Kern Alicia Harschfield	Marilyn Becker Wayne
Offering Escort	Jarvis Arellano	Helen Christianson	Barbara Powell	Dick McClure	Joyce Hathaway
Ushers	Steve and Colette Benson	Jarvis and Glenda Arellano	Melodi Anderson Mike Nichols	Brian and Allison Reynolds	Deborah Dunn John Liddle
Worship Assistant	Nancy Remley-Johnson	Ruth Warner	Doug Johnson	Bob Connett	Jessica Mendoza
Lockup	Need a Lockup person	Dick and Betty McClure	Need a Lockup person	Need a lockup person	Tom Busch
Tellers	Jim Tracy Erwina Bush	Barbara Powell Marette Swayzer	Norma McKay Marilyn Becker	Bob Connett Dick McClure	Kitty Tatro Jarvis Arellano