

PresbyNews

(916) 428-3439, www.faithpresby.org, 625 Florin Road, Sacramento, CA 95831

Volume 33, No. 2 Feb. 5, 2008

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

Sunday School:
Preschool-5th grades 9 & 11 a.m.
6th thru 8th grades 9 am
9th thru 12th grade 9, 11 a.m.
Adult Class 10-11 a.m.

Tuesday Nights
Youth group for junior and senior
high students
7—8:45 pm

Wednesdays in Lent
Praying God's Agenda
7 pm

Feb. 15-16
30-Hour Famine
Youth are "locked in" at church

Feb. 24
Family Night Dinner & Study
5:30 pm

The Presby News is published
bimonthly by a team of volunteer
writers. Please send your submis-
sions to Editor Jim Park at
JamesPark02@comcast.net
Or drop off articles/photos in the
church office.

30-Hour Famine is Coming Soon!

Help support World Vision by sponsoring youth (grades 7-12) who will be participating in a 30-hour famine Feb. 15 and 16 at the church. Youth will begin fasting at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15 and "locked in" the church from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. on the 16th. During that time they will also participate in community service projects. Interested in sponsoring a youth? Contact Patrick or Quinn Vaughn at 428-3439 or e-mail Pvaughn@faithpresby.org or Qvaughn@faithpresby.org.

Praying God's Agenda: An Experience of Lent

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 6th and continuing for six weeks, all are invited to a study/small group/prayer experience called "Praying God's Agenda: The Lord's Prayer for Today." This weekly time of study and prayer will be an opportunity to hear a 15 – 20 minute reflection from one of our pastors on The Lord's Prayer, followed by a time for discussion and reflection in small groups, and concluding with a time of worship with the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

If you are looking for an opportunity to grow in your understanding and practice of prayer and to worship with brothers and sisters in faith during Lent, please consider making this part of your weekly commitment.



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 2nd 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.

Congregational Meeting on the Horizon—The annual congregational meeting will take place after the second service on January 27. The business meeting will include the election of officers for the session and deacons for terms starting in June 2008, the necrology report for 2007, approval of the new terms of call for each of the pastors, a slide show of events from 2007 along with the printed annual report all followed by a great lunch to be prepared by Elder Kitty Tatro and the members of the Fellowship committee.

Goals of Session Retreat in Action—On October 5-6, Session met together for a time of reflection and planning. Focusing on our mission statement, "A community loving Christ, building disciples, serving all", the following goals were set for 2008:

1. Discover how we, as a community, can discern, communicate and address the needs of all individuals and families here at Faith
2. Become a congregation which is committed and practiced in the discipline of prayer (as individuals and together)
3. Become a congregation which is committed and practiced in the discipline of the personal/individual study of God's Word

Discern specific congregation-wide mission emphases which we can commit to for the long term. The Session reflected on how they committed 1% of their time each day to prayer and reading of Scripture during the Advent season. They discussed what was difficult, uplifting and hopeful about spending time in the Word. Ways by which the entire congregation can engage in this commitment were discussed. Development and refinement of an action plan for each of the goals was reviewed and will be communicated with the congregation when it is complete.

Congregational Input Sought—During the month of February, the members of the building subcommittee will be seeking your input on the proposed master plan revision. Watch for the announcement of dates and times in upcoming publications

Changes in the Shuttle—Thanks were offered up for Pat Beal who has been the impetus and coordinator of the shuttle that has so successfully brought folks to services at Faith. Bill Welch will be taking over these responsibilities and we are grateful to him for taking on this wonderful mission service.

Pastors' Study Leaves Approved—It is our privilege and responsibility to ensure that our pastors have time away to study, meet with other pastors and refresh and renew themselves for continued ministry. Pastor Jeff will be attending the National Pastors Conference in San Diego this year and Pastors Quinn and Patrick will be attending the Princeton Youth Forum.

Nominating Committee Prepares Its Slate for Election—The following folks have agreed to be placed on the slate as elder or deacon candidates at the annual congregational meeting: Elders: Sue Hooper, Laurie Richardson, Maria Rodriguez, Christine Mendoza and Greg Rapier; Deacons: Jeff Brown, Betty Keller, David Leader, Joann Helmich, Lori Nichols, and Bob Bagby.

If it's Hard, You're Not Alone

By Jeff Chapman



This season of Lent we have been invited by the leadership of Faith to invest time – perhaps more time than we typically invest – in prayer. For some of us, I recognize, that's a tall order.

Now, prayer ought to be central to our lives as Christians. And in many instances, it is. I know many people in this community who devote significant time each day to seeking God in prayer. Yet it is also not the easiest thing in the world. In fact, I can't remember a single instance when somebody told me, "You know, Jeff, prayer is always such a piece of cake for me. It always comes so naturally. Just like breathing." Maybe there are people out there like that. I just haven't met any. And I'm, most certainly,

not one of them.

Sometimes, often times, prayer is hard.

That's why the church has traditionally called prayer a discipline, you know. It takes practice to learn. Sometimes it's hard work. It takes time. And most importantly, it's not about us – which may be the hardest thing about prayer.

Writer Richard Foster says, "In prayer, real prayer, we begin to think God's thoughts after him: to desire the things he desires, to love the things he loves, to will the things he wills." No wonder prayer is often so hard. It's all about seeking the will and desires of somebody besides myself! That doesn't come naturally.

Let me offer a confession. I've been a Christian for most of my life. I've served as a leader in the church for over 20 years. And yet after all that time trying to follow Christ in my life and lead and encourage others to do the same, prayer is still one of the most difficult practices I ever attempt.

There are times when it is rich. Times when it flows easily, like snow-melt rivers out of the mountains. There are times when God seems close, closer than my own breath. There are times when I can just sit and be still and the whole world stops and a real connection, I can tell, gets made with heaven.

But not all the time.

And with that confession, I want to encourage you. As you seek to pray each day, don't be discouraged if, at times, it's hard work. Keep praying. Don't be discouraged if, at times, God seems far away. Keep praying. Don't be discouraged if your mind wanders. Keep praying. Don't be discouraged if you go a whole day (or a whole week) without pausing to pray at all. Keep praying.

God is your Heavenly Father. And like any good father, God deeply values our time and attention. Even if our words – or our lives, for that matter - aren't polished.

Be encouraged this Lent as you seek God in prayer. I believe he will meet us there. And the effort, in the end, will have been worth it.

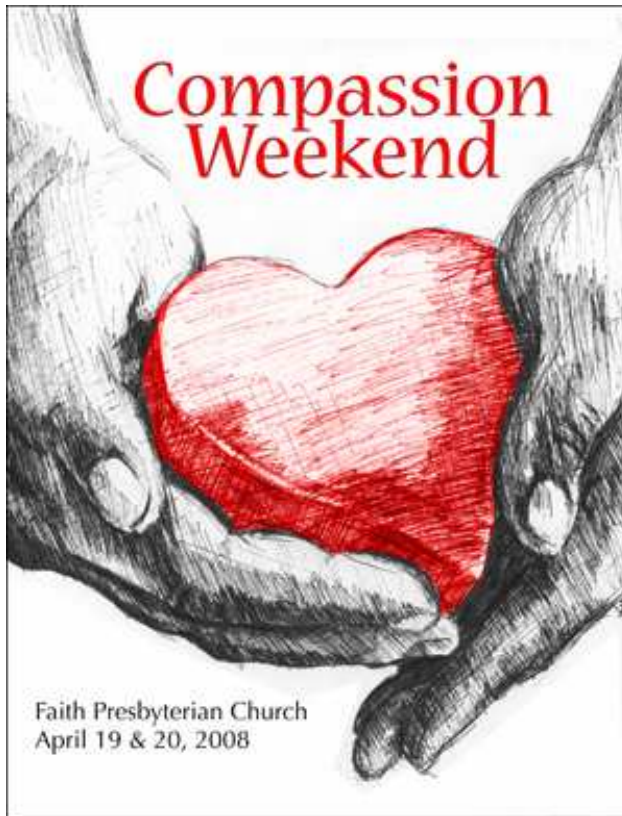
I look forward to worshipping and praying with you this Sunday!

Grace & Peace –Jeff

2008 Lenten Reading Schedule (through Feb. 19)

This Lent we invite you to commit 1% of your day (14.4 minutes), every day to time alone with God in prayer, scripture, and reflection.

Wednesday, Feb. 6- Matthew 1, Thursday, Feb. 7 - Matthew 2, Friday, Feb. 8 - Matthew 3: 1-17, Saturday, Feb. 9 - Matthew 4: 1-11, Sunday, Feb. 10 - Matthew 4: 12-25, Monday, Feb. 11 - Matthew 5: 1-12, Tuesday, Feb. 12 - Matthew 5: 13-20, Wednesday, Feb. 13 - Matthew 5: 21-31, Thursday, Feb. 14 - Matthew 5: 31-48, Friday, Feb. 15 - Matthew 6: 1-18, Saturday, Feb. 16 - Matthew 6: 19-34, Sunday, Feb. 17 - Matthew 7: 1-12, Monday, Feb. 18 - Matthew 7: 13-29, Tuesday, Feb. 19 - Matthew 8



On Sunday, April 20, we'll be canceling our worship services so that members of the congregation can participate in activities to serve those in need all around us. Activities will take place both Saturday, April 19 and Sunday, April 20, and everyone in the community is invited to participate! We'll have 10 to 12 service activities for folks of all ages (toddlers to seniors) both in the church and in the community. Here's a sample of two of the projects we're planning.

Beautify and Preserve Sacramento Northern Bike Trail

Project Description: This project supports the City of Sacramento's annual preservation and beautification project along the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail. To celebrate Global Youth Service and Earth Day, we'll remove litter and invasive plants, move mulch, and prune shrubs. **Who is needed:** A minimum of 10 volunteers. This is a physical project that involves bending, pulling weeds, walking, pruning, etc. Children as young as four years old can participate as well as teens, adults, and senior citizens.

What to bring/wear: All necessary equipment will be provided. Wear comfortable clothing and a hat. Bring water.

Location: Robla Community Park, 625 Bell Avenue, Sacramento

Date & Time of Project: Saturday, April 19, 8 a.m.—1 p.m.

Assemble Education Kits for World Vision

Project Description: We will be assembling hundreds of school kits that will be distributed to needy children across the world through World Vision. All the school supplies will be available. Volunteers will simply gather them into bags. We'd also like to include a hand-written card with each kit.

Who is needed: As many volunteers as possible. From children to seniors

Location: Faith Church

Date & Time of Project: To be determined

Sign-ups will begin in early March at the Compassion Weekend table in the narthex. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to participate. Teens can receive community service hours!

Knitwits Needed!

Are you a knitwit? Then I guarantee that this project will have you in stitches! On April 19-20, 2008, Faith Presbyterian Church will hold its first Compassion Weekend-- a time for service, fellowship, and fun. If you have a knack for knitting (or crocheting) and wish to help in knitting and sewing together blanket squares, then keep an eye out for project sign-ups in the narthex. Are you afraid of needles? Never fear! You can still help us in our effort to warm up Sacramento residents by donating worsted weight yarn of any color, size 10 knitting needles, and yarn needles (large, blunt-eyed sewing needles.) Even remnant yarn is appreciated! To sign up, donate supplies, or learn more about this project, contact Amy Bundock at 916-421-9943 or alandsbro@accessbee.com.

So Much is Happening in Children's Ministry



The Third Grade Bible Presentation is just around the corner. Although we have a pretty good handle on who is in third grade, we also have a number of new families. If your child is in third, fourth, fifth, or sixth grade and has not yet received a Bible, please let Melinda Lewis or Pam Rock know. We do not want to miss anybody when we make the presentation.

In Children's Worship, the children have been writing down prayers of gratitude and prayers of concern. The children would like to give thanks for their families, friends, and the world. They are also extremely thankful to all the people who come each week to share God's word with them.

In Sunday School, the children learned about Nicodemus visiting Jesus by night. The children did a number of activities centered around John 3:16- ***God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life.*** For God's love is so great that we cannot measure with a measuring cup, we cannot measure it with a tape measure, and we cannot measure it with a clock. My prayer is that children come to understand this incredible gift we have been given.

Many thanks to the Family Fun Night Team! Thanks to Cathy and Joey Healow, Jessica Mendoza, Nate Barton, Skyler and Sierra Brown, Don Lewis, Cate Whidby, Tyler Rock, Robert and Demetris Moore, Preston Tucker, and Megan Kinkennon.

Softball season is coming up!

Let me know if you are interested in playing coed softball this spring in the church league. Registration & equipment fee is \$30 per person. Get a release form and mail it with your check payable to "LINDSEE TANIMOTO" by March 30. League begins on Tuesday, April 22. Please reply with your availability to practice on Tuesdays. Feel free to pass along to other Faith & Bethany members. Blessings to you, Linz, 916/654-5982

E-Waste Collection Day



On Saturday, April 5th, from 9am to 4pm, you can bring your televisions, monitors, laptops, computers, printers, phones, scanners, stereos, fax machines and copiers to the JFK parking lot, corner of Gloria and Florin Road. These items will be recycled. Do not bring household batteries, microwaves or appliances. Paul Keller for more information.

The Fruit Your Skin Craves

If you're slathering on sunscreen through the winter months, good for you!! Your skin still needs it even if it's chilly outside. And here's something else you can do for your skin this season: stock up on sweet, juicy oranges. The reason? Oranges are ripe with naringenin, a natural occurring flavonone that may help shield skin from UV rays. It won't replace regular sunscreen use, but researchers hope it may help stop skin-cell death. Here are five other ways to help keep your skin supple this winter:

1. Get a humidifier for you home.
2. Use the right cleanser for your skin
3. Cut back on super hot showers.
4. Slather on an emollient-rich cream after bathing.
5. Pick the right sun screen.

Current Time & Talent Opportunities

Ministry Opportunity	Date(s) Needed	Approx. Time Commitment	Committee/Coordinator/Contact
Pocket Community Coalition 1-2 people needed to represent Faith Church on this newly formed coalition, which will work to strengthen families, neighborhoods & schools in the Pocket area.	Start immediately – attend meetings the second Thursday every month (6:30pm)	2hrs per month	Jeff Chapman 916-428-3439
Nugget Friendship Receipts Coordinator One person needed to collect & tally receipts	2-3 times per year	2hrs each time	Ruth Burkinshaw 916-393-3169
JFK Committee 4-6 people needed to research & develop opportunities for an ongoing relationship with JFK High School	Start date to be determined	To be determined once research done to identify opportunities	<u>Mission</u> Jane Owen 916-391-8302
Church Lock-up 1-2 people needed to secure the church property and check safety items following the 11:00am service	The fifth Sunday of each month (that have five Sundays)	20-30 minutes	<u>Property Maintenance Committee</u> Ken Finch 916-391-6101

What's New on the Web?

Have you visited Faith's website lately? Next time you are logged on to the Internet go to www.faithpresby.com to see what's new. Go to the "Calendar" tab and look under "Upcoming Events" for the **latest news** from the church and congregation. You'll find information about **Compassion Weekend** and a link to more details about what's planned and how you can get involved. Under "Upcoming Events" you can also click on the links to see **photos** of our 2007 Fall Retreat, Harvest Dinner, Golf Tournament, and a God's Green Earth activity. Interested in reading the **2007 Annual Report**? Go to "About Faith," then "Leadership" and click on the link. If you like to see what **volunteer activities** are currently available in the church go to the "Outreach" tab and look for "Time and Talent Opportunities." **Sermons** are available under the "Worship" tab and look for the current issue of the *Presby News* under the "Our Community" heading. Happy Surfing!

Join Us 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. 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 (groups of 8). One month you will be asked to host, one to bring the main dish, one a salad and/or vegetable and one 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 (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!

Host Families Needed for Exchange Students



Hi, I'm Nina Dramer, and here's a picture of me and Mom, just to remind you who I am. We've been "regulars" here at Faith for about 8 years now. I'm part of Crew, and in the past have been in Young Faith Singers, worship band, Munchies, and have spent many summers at Westminster Woods.

The reason for this notice is that next school year I hope to be going off to a foreign country as a Rotary International exchange student. I've made it through the application and interview processes and have conditional acceptance. Only one

thing stands in my way: they have made it clear to me that I will not be going anywhere until I find three host families for an incoming Rotary exchange student.

I would love it if Rotary could place a student with families here at Faith. Since I've grown up in this church, I know what we have to offer. There's no better place. I would be grateful if you would consider becoming a host family.

A three-month term is what is asked for. Then the student goes to a new host family. The student will be arriving just before the start of the school year, probably late August. You could be either the first (through November), second (Dec-Feb), or even third (March-May) host family.

If you have school-age kids, that's super. Think what a great experience this would be for them. But even if you don't have children in your home, it doesn't matter, for even empty-nesters have done it and had a great time. You provide meals, a bed (private room not a requirement), and make sure they get enrolled in the local high school. McClatchy, Kennedy, Christian Brothers, and many others all have years of experience hosting exchange students. Mom and I have hosted two times, and both experiences were fantastic. We loved it, and we're sure you would too.

Please feel free to call me at your convenience and I can get you more information. Actually, the sooner you come forward, the more choice you have. Please take this chance. There's a wonderful kid waiting to become part of your family, and hopefully you will have a lifelong friendship. You can reach me and my mom, Barbara, at 916-442-6331.

Who's Really in Control

By Pastor Quinn Vaughn



Who's really in control? Well, as I said in my sermon recently, my calendar says Youth Ministry is in control. But, thankfully the Lord challenged the temptation to believe that and called me to see things with a Kingdom Perspective. It's not about how many youth events we have, how many youth show up, or how "successful" 30 Hour Famine ends up being; it is about that fact that the Kingdom of God has come, will come and is coming! And we as a Faith Family get to participate in and point to the Kingdom of God at work here and now. Exciting...but easier said than done!

Seeing how Paul walked with a Kingdom Perspective really helped me to re-apply my Cross-focals as I looked at the lives of the families and teens in our Faith

Family. In Paul's walk of faith he constantly looked at things through the Cross and in doing that was called (and freed) to walk with people & know their stories, to stand against exploitation and injustice even when it cost him, to worship and pray at all times & to move in God's time.

How does this inform my (and our) relationships as a Faith Family? The youth in our midst need to be known by their whole Faith Family. The call to be a parent is not an easy one...but it is intensely important. You are the most important person(s) in your child's life – even if you don't often feel like this! But, you can't do it alone – we need to support you in this call! I don't believe it is about more programs...I believe it is about relationship! When we as a larger family get to know the youth we will see more clearly how God is moving in our midst. We may discover injustice or exploitation that they are experiencing themselves or seeing around them. If so, by the power of the Cross we can work together to stand with them in and against injustices. And week after week we can gather to worship and pray to the Lord with them in the midst of trials and hardship. They need to see the Kingdom of God at work around them...the world is not going to show them that...so who is? This is the call of families and of our Faith Family - to live like the Kingdom of God has come, will come and is coming!

I ran across a resource that has helped me to get to know their context and the things in their world that threaten to exploit them. It is called The Center for Parent/Youth Understanding. Visit www.cpyu.org.

Lord, thank you for being in relationship with us and for giving us this wonderful Faith Family. Without each other it would be really hard to see all things through a Kingdom Perspective! - Amen

Youth Summer Activities Announced

- June 8th is Youth Sunday and Youth Banquet
- June 10th is the last Youth Group before Summer.
- Summer Nites will start July 1st and will go for 8 weeks. We will have a SunSplash Trip again, and potentially a couple of concerts! The youth calendar will indicate theme nights, events and concert info.
- VBS is - July 7-11th
- Westminster Woods Buccaneer (middle school) & Central (high school) - July 13th-19th
- All Church Mission Trip – August 2nd – 9th.