

PresbyNews

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

Volume 33, No. 4 Mar. 4, 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
March 5 & 12
Praying God's Agenda
7 pm

March 16 —Palm Sunday

March 20—Maundy Thursday
Dinner 6 pm & Service 7 pm

March 21—Good Friday Healing
Service with Joan Stock

March 23—Easter Sunday

March 30—A Look at Faith

April 4-6—Women's Retreat

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



Women's Retreat

10th Annual Women of Faith Retreat April 4-6, 2008

*If I'm a Survivor, Why Do I Feel Like God
Voted Me Off the Island?
Hanging on
When Nothing Makes Sense*

Join us at the Diamond Arrow Christian Center in Nevada City for our annual retreat. Leaders Brenda Tapley and Sylvia Gregory will lead our discussion. Cost is \$140. For more information call Laurie Richardson at 393-8106 or Ilah Turner at 428-8716.

Praying God's Agenda: An Experience of Lent

All are invited to a study/small group/prayer experience called "Praying God's Agenda: The Lord's Prayer for Today" Wednesday nights from 7-8:30p.m. This weekly time of study and prayer is 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.



Note: Wednesday March 19 no meeting;
Thursday March 20th Maundy Service: dinner 6 p.m. and Service 7 p.m.;
Friday March 21st Good Friday healing service with Joan Stock.



Got Teenagers?

Do you have a teenager who's allergic to chores? Do you have a teen that shrugs & speaks in grunts and other strange sounds? Do you have a son or daughter who has caused you to turn into your parents? Is your teen absolutely certain YOU were never his or her age?

Then you'll appreciate & benefit from this lively & informative seminar. This is a seminar for any parent who wants to stay close to their kids and to influence them to become the kind of young men and women God created them to be. Come get encouragement, practical ideas & interact with other parents like yourself who want to sharpen their parenting skills.

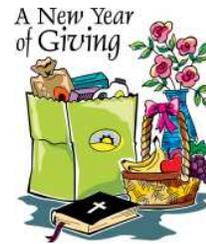
Understand your teenager with widely known and respected speaker, Wayne Rice. He is the co-founder of Youth Specialties and has worked with teenagers for more than 15 years.

Saturday March 8 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
at Carmichael Presbyterian church
(McMillen Hall)
\$10 registration (includes workbook)
RSVP ASAP 916-486-9081
Karen@carmichaelpres.org

Family Promise

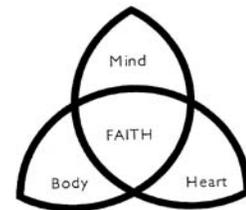
As you know our week for Family Promise is from 5:00pm Sunday March 23 to 7:00am March 30. If you have questions about your role, please plan to attend a brief training session after second service on March 23rd in room 5. On Sunday March 30 after second service there will be a "debriefing" meeting in room 5. If you have comments or questions about the week, we look forward to seeing you.

Faith's Clubs Donate



Faith's social groups show that they are not all food and fun but do good where it is needed. The Castaways have graciously donated hearing devices to Faith in time for our Easter Services. The Windjammers are splitting their yearly donations into 3 groups: Family Promise, the Sherman Group (residential treatment for abused teens) and Sacramento Blue Star Moms (money for making care packages for our troops).

A Good Reason To Get Four Whole-Grains



Want to keep your blood pressure below the 140/90 danger point? Get at least four servings of whole-grain foods a day. Hypertension risk starts to drop with just one to two servings of whole-grains daily, but getting four servings makes the greatest impact.

4 in a Flash

It's easy to get four--or more--whole grains into your day start early with a whole-grain cereal like shredded wheat. Then, use two slices of whole-grain bread in your sandwich at lunch, air pop some popcorn for your snack, and have a scoop of brown rice with dinner.

A Response to the Sacramento Bee

By Jeff Chapman



Many of you, I know, read the front page story recently in the Sacramento Bee concerning Presbyterian congregations in the Sacramento area which are trying to break away from our denomination (See “Breakaway Churches Face a New Battle” in the February 10th edition - <http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/701100.html>) The article was an attempt to bring readers up to speed on something many of us have been dealing with for some time now. And while The Bee made a valiant attempt to accurately report on a very complicated and nuanced issue, the article missed the mark in several respects. I am using this space this week to offer some clarification in several areas.

What do these Presbyterians believe anyway?

The Bee article accurately points out that two congregations in our area (Fair Oaks Presbyterian and First Presbyterian of Roseville) are frustrated with the current state of our denomination (i.e. Presbyterian Church USA) and would like to be released to join the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Henry Wells, pastor at Fair Oaks, is quoted as saying that they want to leave because they disagree with the rest of the denomination on everything from the ordination of gays, to what to call the Holy Trinity and other basic tenets of the Christian faith. It would be easy to see how an uninformed reader might read such a statement and wonder just how far off its biblical foundations the PCUSA has shifted.

The truth is that there are differences in theology and practice from congregation to congregation within our denomination. At the same time, the article is misleading. First, while one may be able to find isolated instances where the constitution has been violated, our constitutional standards for ordination of elders, pastors and deacons have not changed. For instance, they still include a requirement for such leaders to live “either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness.” (G-6.0106b) Second, our denomination, and this congregation in particular, continue to affirm the Holy Trinity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as revealed to us through scripture. There are certainly other images and names we use for God, as does scripture – but this way of talking about the Trinity is traditional and primary in our denomination’s language.

In short, while one could undoubtedly find in any denomination isolated examples of where basic tenets of the Christians faith have been abandoned, to suggest that such isolated and individual deviations characterize our denomination as a whole does not square with my experience nor the experience of most others I know in this denomination at this time.

We don’t own the church?

The article also points out that according to the Book of Order, our constitution, the property of local congregations is held in trust by the denomination. That means that while congregations are certainly free to leave the denomination at any time, it is up to the denomination as to whether or not they can leave with their property. The article states that members of these congregations have been shocked and angered to discover this fact.

In reality, while it may be true that some members at these congregations have experienced shock at this revelation, the fact that property is held in trust has not been a secret. The leadership at Faith, for instance, has long been well-aware of the fact that the buildings which sit at 625 Florin Road do not belong to this congregation. As Presbyterians who are a part of a connectional church, we share a great deal in common: our constitution; our confessions and creeds; our ordination standards; *and* our property. In fact, the property trust clause of our constitution was approved by our denomination as recently as 1983. Congregations, including the ones in question, affirmed their agreement to this clause at that time. Leaders of congregations, including those of us here at Faith, are thus responsible to help their congregations understand these important parts of our life together. Why that didn’t happen at Fair Oaks, for instance, I can’t say.

Jesus and My New Sleeping Bag

Reflections from Pastor Patrick Vaughn



What does Jesus have to do with sleeping bags you may wonder? After my last sermon a few people came up to me and asked about resources that I use to help inform me on my purchases. This was in response to my sharing:

When I sentimentalize Christ and turn him in to sugar and spice and everything nice, I turn Christ into a god made of my human hands, which is no god at all. I forsake the real Jesus for a homemade safe Jesus idol that has no power to transform me. I have to be willing to encounter the living risen Christ who has the true power to transform. From experience this is not easy because Christ gets into all my business and messes it all up. *When I go shopping for clothes I can't just buy anything anymore because I hear Christ calling me to love my neighbor, even my neighbor who labors unjustly in a sweatshop, so I choose to try to buy clothes that are sweat*

free. (Sermon on Acts 19 2/3/2008)

Most recently when I was purchasing my new sleeping bag I was confronted with the awesome responsibility that God has given us to care for and cultivate the earth. Genesis 2:15, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and **keep it**." The Hebrew word that is translated "keep it" means literally to guard, preserve and to keep watch over. Our "tilling" that is cultivation and use of the earth's resources, should not be at the expense of preserving and keeping watch over the earth.

So how did this influence my sleeping bag choice? Though there were less expensive, lighter, and some bags with better features, I chose the Marmot Copra 15 degree bag because it is made of 100% recycled fabrics and 80% recycled insulation. Plus, from my research of the company, Marmot is sincerely attempting to be conscience of promoting fair labor practices and minimizing their impact on the environment. My sleeping choice reflects my conviction that we are to enjoy the resources God has given us but to do so in a responsible way.

An example of how Christ's command to love my neighbor influences my life, is by the kind of coffee I purchase. Quinn and I are committed to buying fair trade coffee that ensures that coffee farmers and workers are compensated fairly for their work. To take it a step further, I try to buy coffee from roasters that have relationships with the farm co-ops they buy their coffee from. A great place to find this is the local Sacramento Natural Food Co-op but you can also get coffee at Nugget, Bel Air or Costco that is fair trade certified.

A final note, on letting Jesus inform us on what we buy is that it is hard. In fact it can be discouraging. I have discovered that often times I can't find the perfect company or the perfect manufacturer that reflects the gospel in their business practices; but there are ones that do it better and are moving in the right direction. Also, it's hard because it takes time and a commitment to seek God in prayer and scripture about the most mundane things and a commitment to asking questions. The cool thing is that it also reminds us that God does care about every aspect of our life, even the mundane. Why? Because sometimes it is through the mundane that we can most boldly proclaim God's grace and justice. It is through small actions that movements begin. The Holy Spirit can use even the smallest things to transform our lives and shine forth God's love and justice in the world. Finally here are my practical tips:

1. Ask God through prayer to lead you.
2. Check out what scripture has to say on issues of justice (i.e. Isaiah 58 or Luke 4:14-30).
3. Ask questions, email businesses and ask about their practices, check their websites for a code of ethics; if they can't provide you concrete commitments or practices then you might want to think twice.

New Organ & Piano On Loan

Thanks to the Larrick Piano Company we now have the loan of a new Mason & Hamlin piano for a 30-day period. In addition, the Jarvis Music Company has loaned us a T958 Rogers organ for the Easter season. At the end of that period another organ will be loaned to us for six months. Both instruments are loaned free of charge with no obligation.

This arrangement is part of the efforts of the Acoustics Improvement Committee to address the acoustics, sound system and investigate the rehabilitation or replacement of our organ and piano. This committee was established by the Session at their October meeting and Session will be making final decisions on any recommendations. If you have comments or concerns please contact one of the committee members: David Anders, Pat Beal, Jeff May, David Nash, Joe Parente, Ken Pisor or Wally Smith.



The Calbo's Have Moved

Bob and Marlene Calbo have moved to:
9975 Heatherton Way
Elk Grove CA 95757
E-mail address remains the same:
Woolybugger1937@aol.com

Zephyr Point Programs



The Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center is on the east shore of Lake Tahoe with a grand view of the lake and of the west Shore Mountains. Accommodations are in modern, motel-like rooms and meals are served in a spacious dining room. It is a great place to stay, with or without a conference to attend. The 2008 programs include:

Intimate Encounters: March 28-30. Cost per couple is \$310. Frank and Jamie Brockardt lead couples in discovering the secrets of a really good marriage. This can lead couples to start an Intimate Encounters group in their home churches.

Boomers and Beyond: June 1-5 Cost per person \$410 for a shared room. \$556 for a private room. Five pastors lead workshops in Writing your life story, How the Bible came into existence, Murder in the Pew, God's Gifts in the Second Half of Life. Walt and Joann Kerfoot are Worship and Singing leaders.

A Grand Adventure: June 27-29. Housing per family costs \$146. Meals for children 6 to 9 \$29.50. For 10 and up \$34.50. This is for grandparents and their grandchildren – no parents allowed – who can have a fun weekend together. Shirley Neff is the program leader.

Women's Retreat: October 10-12. Room and board \$155. Exploring women's thirst for wholeness. Small group discussions. Time for meditation. Led by Candy Dodd, coordinator of women's ministries at La Jolla Presbyterian church.

For more information, contact the Program Coordinator at 775-588-1835 or lynne@zephyrpoint.org



MEN'S RETREAT MAY 30-JUNE 1

Men of all ages: Mark your calendar and save May 30-June 1 for our first Annual Men's Retreat at Westminster Woods. Rev. Dan Fowler will be our speaker and facilitator. Known to many as Faith's former Associate Pastor, Dan has been the pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Ft. Bragg, since 2003.

Who's invited? Faith's men of all ages and boys in first grade and older. This will be an intergenerational retreat. We'll talk, pray and listen together as Dan leads us in fellowship and spiritual enrichment. This is an opportunity for fathers and sons to learn about each other in a different setting.

We'll also hike, build campfires, (be sure to talk to Jeff about his MANFIRE), and worship together outdoors under the trees. Optional activities include the Challenge Course, accompanying Paul Keller on a field trip and hike to Bodega Bay, visiting nearby Occidental, walking the Labyrinth and, for some of us, taking a delicious nap in the afternoon. The food is good at "The Woods" and so are the trees, meadows, refreshing air and mild summer temperatures.

Sign-ups begin Sunday, April 6. The cost is \$115 per person for two nights and four meals. This is for the standard cabin with bunk style beds. The only optional extra charge is \$40 for the Challenge Course for which a minimum age of eight is recommended. For a few of the seniors we have rented Hilltop House at \$175 a person. It has beds, linens, full bathroom and kitchen – all the comforts of home! Once the cabins fill up, a few may want to pitch their tents and camp in a meadow for \$62 per person for the weekend, including three meals on Saturday and Sunday brunch.

We're expecting 40 or more men and boys to join in the fun and fellowship, including Pastors Jeff, Jim and Patrick. Questions or comments? Contact Jim Tracy at 428-0311 about registration. Ask Paul Keller at 392-0304 about hiking. For all other questions talk to Bill Frye at 391-6514.

Your Help is Needed

A deserving woman with six children is looking for a basic car for transportation. She has \$2500. Please call Jackie Rule at 391-6768 if you can help.

**HARD JOB
BEING GOD**
April 6 at
Faith Church



“Hard Job Being God” is presented by the Broadway Playhouse to benefit **Family Promise**.

Faith Church, April 6, at 2:30 PM
Straight out of the Old Testament, through the 60's and into the now for your families' enjoyment, come and see: "Hard Job Being God" A contemporary musical sharing the age old human story of our relationship to God. The events and stories shared are familiar from the Hebrew Scriptures, but are told in reference to modern times. Here is Gold's plea to humankind to transform the evils in society that harm and destroy life. The human struggle today in urban society is much as it has been for thousands of years.

The cast of around 25 will present musical vignettes of Old Testament stories in the Bible. It begins with the story of God's hope for humanity. The theme "a celebration of peace, love and justice" is ever present throughout the production. The story of Moses, the conflict of Ruth, Joshua and the Walls of Jericho, and the story of the prophet Amos take on a new relevance in a setting of today's urban setting.

Suggested donation;
Adults \$10.00, Kids \$5.00.
Tickets will be sold after service for the next Sundays, or at the door. This promises to be a great afternoon of entertainment for the whole family, friends and neighbors. Call Tanya Anderson at 442-5414 with questions.



*Turn it
Over to God!*

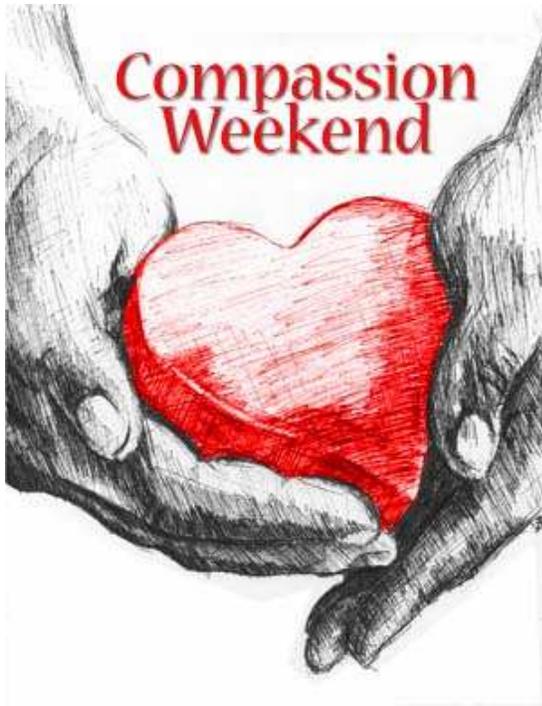
**Donations for
the UC Davis
Cancer Center**



Thank you to all those who have given to my Girl Scot Gold Award Project benefiting the UC Davis Cancer Center. I am so grateful for all of the donations I have received. If you would still like to help, Sunday March 9th is the deadline to give, with the following Sunday, March 16th being the FINAL day.

I am asking for DVD's, personal DVD players, exercise clothing, plastic water bottles, and art supplies. If you would like more information, pick up a flyer near the Welcome Center, in the Narthex. Thank you again Faith for your compassion and donations.

Natalie Reyes



Compassion Weekend April 19 and 20, 2008

Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in Compassion Weekend, April 19 and 20. Ask your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join us in this awesome weekend of service to our community!

Project Focus: Cooking for Friends

Cooking for Friends is an extension of Miki Vohryzek-Bolden's Cooking Communities for Cancer Patients. Miki is a local Sacramentan, and cancer survivor, who started a community of friends and families to prepare nutritious meals for cancer patients and others experiencing a crisis. With Miki's help, we decided to expand

this program for Compassion Weekend to include anyone in the congregation or community in need of nutritious meals. Our goal is to prepare up to two weeks of meals for each person identified with a need. All meals will be vacuum sealed and can be kept in either the freezer or refrigerator and microwaved or cooked on a stove top.

To wet your appetite, here a few of the meals we will be preparing on Compassion Weekend: Chicken Tetrazzini, Cheesy Ham and Broccoli Bake, Blueberry Brunch Cake, Chicken Patties with Apple and Arugula, Twice-Baked Potatoes with English Cotswold Cheese, Fresh Spinach and New Potato Frittata, Corn and Black Bean Salad, Mediterranean Couscous and Beans.

Each cooking shift is for three hours; however, we will need people who can commit for an hour or two to deliver meals. We will be using both kitchens at Faith and will need to fill the following positions for each of the four cooking shifts on Saturday and Sunday: Six people to cook and prep food, one person to vacuum seal and label food, one or two people to deliver food, one person to provide backup in case someone who volunteers is sick.

In addition, we will need numerous cooking utensils that we don't have in our kitchens. There will be a sign up sheet for items we need. Another way to help is to contribute money for or purchase a specific piece of cooking equipment to donate to our Faith kitchens. Please contact Sandi Bilbo at 424-5222 or dbilbo@att.net if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

Faith Youth Raise \$4,000 During Famine

When C.J. Keasey, one of Faith's Youth Group leaders, was recently downtown for a work-related appointment, he saw into a familiar face.

"Aren't you Mike?" C.J. asked a homeless man sitting on a bench.

"Hey, I know you, you're from Faith" the man replied. They talked and prayed together for a few minutes before parting ways. Mike was thrilled that C.J. remembered him and said hello. The two met the weekend before when C.J. traveled downtown with a carload of Youth Group members from Faith Presbyterian Church to hand out sack lunches during Faith's 30-Hour Famine.

Forty-three youth and eleven adults from Faith participated in this year's 30-hour famine, raising \$4,000 for World Vision to fight hunger. With a government match, Faith's Youth Group will send \$16,000 to the organization.

Participants began their fast at 12:30 p.m. on February 15, and gathered at the church at 5:30 to spend the night and next day fasting and learning about childhood hunger, disease, and poverty. They talked, played games, prayed, and fasted together.

On Saturday morning the junior high students walked through the neighborhoods surrounding the church, distributing grocery bags and asking for food donations for the SSIP food closet. They collected over 60 bags of boxed and canned food! A huge thank you to all our neighbors who filled these sacks with food which will now fill the hungry stomachs of our brothers and sisters living on the streets or in dire situations in Sacramento.

Meanwhile, high school students were preparing 160 bagged lunches. Both groups and advisors went to several locations in downtown Sacramento looking for homeless folks who need food and care. In Caesar Chavez Park there were many takers. In Old Sac, however, the homeless weren't so visible.

"Well done,
good and faithful
servant!"

Matthew 25:21, NIV



"We really had to look carefully to find homeless people," said one teen. "Sometimes they don't look much different from us."

The Youth Group students said that they learned and gained a lot from distributing food to the homeless. They talked to them and prayed with them. Many even shared hugs.

"I couldn't believe how much they appreciated what we were doing," said a junior high student. "They were really thankful to us and to God."

The 30-Hour Famine ended with an evening "break fast" communion worship service and a potluck dinner.