
Faith Presbyterian Church

PRESBY NEWS

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

Sunday Services 9 and 11 a.m.

Youth Groups Put Their Faith in Action

Faith Church strongly supports missions activities and encourages participation from all age groups. That's why, once a month, our youth groups put their *Faith in Action* by performing service activities. So far this year Munchies and Crew have made signs to carry and t-shirts to wear during Crop Walk; they gathered supplies for college care packages and made cards to sell at the SERRV table, and gathered food from the neighborhoods surrounding the church to take to the SSIP food closet. In January and February youth will be gleaning fruit to take to the SSIP food closet. If your tree(s) has more fruit than you plan to eat, please consider allowing our youth to come pick fruit Tuesday, January 19 or Wednesday, January 20 between 7 and 8:30 p.m. (they'll have flashlights, etc.). Contact DiAnne Brown at 395-6129 for more information.



Who Needs Our Help??

This advent season as we gather together to reflect on blessings past and present please consider those in our community who are in need of our help or our presence. Think about how we, as a congregation, can make a difference in the lives of those in our neighborhood, city, and our world. Then pray for our third annual Compassion Weekend scheduled for **April 24 and 25, 2010** and for project ideas that will be pleasing to God.

On Compassion Weekend Faith Church will be participating in a time of Christian service to our community, where folks of all ages will join together in activities that have been chosen by our congregation.

- In choosing our service projects, we want to follow these core principles:
- The service projects must address actual needs
- There must be ample opportunity for broad scale volunteer involvement
- Those doing the serving actively engage with those being served
- There must be activities for all age groups
- There must be opportunities for long-term support and involvement
- This year, in keeping with our new Mission focus, many of our projects should address hunger and homelessness.

If you have an idea for a project or service activity, simply fill out the form on the Welcome Center table in the narthex and place it in the basket. Or contact DiAnne Brown at 395-6129, Sierraskymktg@netscape.net.



Ethiopia: *A Country in Need*



If you asked most people in Sacramento to point out Ethiopia on a map, my guess is the majority of us could not find it. But this landlocked country of 85 million people on the eastern edge of Africa is in great need. We, at Faith Presbyterian Church, could make a huge difference for the lives of many people in this country. But before we send a team there, it is important for us to know more about this country's rich geography, culture and history.

The ancient Ethiopian empire was one of the few nations in Africa to avoid European colonization. In fact, other than a five-year occupation by Mussolini's Italian Army from 1936-1941, Ethiopia actually is one of the oldest independent countries on the planet! After 60 years under a bloody socialist regime, Ethiopia adopted its first constitution in 1994 and held its first multiparty elections in 1995. The country currently has a President and a two-house legislative system. Unfortunately, most of the people living far away from the capitol of Addis Ababa do not have much of a direct connection to their government. In fact, the Abaya region has historically been mostly ignored by the government.



Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world. The economy is largely based on agriculture (coffee is its biggest export crop), but frequent drought and poor cultivation leave the people incredibly vulnerable to poverty. In fact, almost 40% of the population lives below the world poverty line. What may seem unfathomable to many of us is that the average income for an adult in Ethiopia is less than \$900 a year! Much of the population survives on much less than that. In Abaya, World Vision would offer vocational training, micro-credit opportunities and increase the availability of work for women in the region.

Along with severe poverty, Ethiopia's population is wracked with health problems. Because of a high percentage of AIDS infections, malaria and low access to clean water, the life expectancy in Ethiopia is only 55 years. Consider this -- in the Abaya region of Ethiopia (where we are considering sponsorship) less than 30% of the people have reasonable access to clean and safe water. With our help, World Vision could develop more than a dozen new springs in the region as well as provide better toilet systems and waste disposal. This could cut the infant mortality rate in half!

Ethiopia is a country rich in history and there is not nearly enough space to write about it all. But it is clear that this is a country in need. World Vision is creating a strong presence there and if God is indeed calling us, we could make a huge difference!

Citations: CIA World Factbook, World Vision

We're Going to Ethiopia? Tell Me More!

Vision Trip Team: Walt McDaniel, Maria Rodriguez, Jeff Chapman.

Vision Trip Dates: March 3-13, 2010.

Vision Trip Purpose: For Faith Presbyterian Church to explore and entertain the possibility of a long-term partnership with the Abaya Area Development Project (ADP) in Ethiopia through World Vision. There are no strings attached to this trip and nothing will be expected in return, only that we would prayerfully consider doing something about what we see when we go there.

Vision Trip Goals:

To gain a first hand understanding of the problem of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia and Africa and some of the solutions World Vision has adopted in response.

To gain a first hand understanding of the challenge of clean water in Ethiopia and how World Vision is helping to address those challenges by drilling new wells.

To see firsthand how World Vision is bringing Christ into their development work and sharing the Gospel, in word and deed, with those they serve. We will take part in a community worship service and meet face to face with local pastors in the Abaya ADP.

To experience first hand the problem of a lack of education, particularly as it affects women, and what solutions World Vision is offering in response.

To gain a first hand understanding of the problem of food security in Ethiopia and how that problem is being addressed by World Vision. Ethiopia has a history of food insecurity.

To gain an understanding of the current government in Ethiopia. In particular, we would like to better understand their level of support for World Vision and their commitment to seeing the nation of Ethiopia become less and less dependent upon foreign aid.

To visit a neighboring ADP which has been in development for 12 years or longer (Abaya is a brand new ADP) so that we can see what this sort of ministry actually does accomplish over the long term.

Vision Trip Cost: Between \$8,000 and \$9,000. \$6,200 of those funds have already been raised from outside sources so the cost to Faith's Mission budget will be \$3,000 or less.



Questions? We highly encourage Faith members who have questions about this mission effort, or any of our current mission efforts, to speak with Rudy Buehler (our mission elder), members of our mission committee, or members of our Session. As the trip approaches, we will have many more opportunities to share information about Abaya and the time we will spend there.

Crafters Club Scores Big

Through generous donations, the Faith Crafters Club has raised \$1,300 with their knitted and crocheted scarf and hat sale. The proceeds will go to Eagles Wings in Zambia, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to assisting vulnerable children in Zambia through family, education and camp programs. Our own Jenny May recently spent two weeks there and gave us a wonderful testimony and slide show. In addition, numerous scarves and hats were also donated to Maryhouse, St. John's Shelter and Applewood Care Center. Faith Crafters Club meets every Monday afternoon (except holidays) from 1 pm to 3 pm. All crafters are welcome.



Changes Made to Faith Website

A few changes were recently made to Faith's website (www.faithpresby.org) to make it easier to navigate and a little more user friendly. On the home page there are four new quick link buttons under the photo slideshow. The **Sermons** button links to a page where you can listen to a podcast (Godcast) of the sermon, read the sermon, and read the study questions found in "The Next Step" bulletin insert. **This Week at Faith** links to the upcoming events page, which includes the Top 5 @ Faith as well as other announcements. The **Life Group** icon links to a current list of Life Groups and meeting days and times. And **Find Us** takes you to directions to the church and a Mapquest map link.

Two new pages have been added – under the "Our Community" tab you'll find a "Get Involved" page which links to the Pathways to Service Directory and on the "Outreach" tab you can navigate to a "Sponsor a Child" page which provides information about our World Vision child sponsorship program.

While you're navigating the website, check out the Faith's List page under the "Our Community" tab. There might be some gift ideas for Christmas! And after Christmas, be sure to post any household items or toys you no longer need. Maybe we can find a home for them!

Thanks for Decorating Faith for the Holidays



We want to thank all of those who spent all of their time and effort in decorating the Sanctuary and grounds for the upcoming Christmas holiday. We want to especially thank Kathy and Randy Ramos for spending their time both before and during the Friday when we decorated the sanctuary in anticipation of the Hanging of the Greens ceremony. Others who helped on Friday were Jim Tracy, Monique Ramos, Steve and Sydney Harper, Michael Roach, Barbara and Bert Brown, Cynthia, Rick and Natalie Crow, Terri Westerdahl, Andeen Lovett and Nancy Mitchell.

Melba Lagle's new contact information:

500 North Westberry
Blvd. #106
Madera CA 93637
559-673-3891

Buy a Poinsettia for Christmas

The poinsettias that adorn the sanctuary for Christmas will be on sale during the holidays. Please find the area in the Narthex where you can buy a poinsettia, display them in church and take them home before Christmas. We have them in either red or white colors. The cost for each poinsettia will be \$7.00 for each one that is a donation to Faith Church.



May the Peace and Joy of Christ Be With You This Christmas Season!

Faith Family -
 What a joy it is to grow & worship the LORD with all of you. The spirit keeps moving in amazing ways and I pray you feel it this Christmas season.

Quinn

May God's grace
 shine through each
 moment of this season
 for you! Jim

May your Christmas
 Season be filled with
 God's great blessing and
 Joy! Betsy

Brothers + Sisters -
 It is a true joy to be able to celebrate the birth of our Lord in this community. Grace + Peace with you this season. - Jeff

As we enter into the Christmas season I pray that you will be filled with the Peace of Jesus. Praise God for this wonderful season! - Hope

Merry Christmas
 and Happy New Year!
 Pablo Acosta

May You & Yours
 Be blessed during
 this Holiday Season
 Peace be with you.
 Lisa



May the music
 of the season
 remind us of
 the spirit of
 Christ. Jennifer

May God walk beside
 you and keep His love
 and joy close to
 your heart throughout
 this Christmas season!
 Melody

May peace
 and blessings
 be upon you and
 your family
 this Christmas
 season!
 Kristi

May you find quiet
 moments to reflect
 on the miracle of this
 season. Melinda

MAY YOUR EXPERIENCE
 THE MIRACLE OF
 CHRIST WITH US,
 EMMANUEL THIS
 CHRISTMAS.
 PEACE IN CHRIST,

Patricia

Helpers at Faith—January 2010

| | January 3 | January 10 | January 17 | January 24 | January 31 |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Worship Service | 9:00am | 9:00am | 9:00am | 5:00pm | 9:00am |
| Worship Assistant | Hal Turner | Kathy Ellis | Virgie Cornelius | Marlene Calbo | Mike Nichols |
| Ushers | Larry & Noreen Freund | Mary Nabers Marvette Swayzer | Steve & Colette Benson | Bob McCarroll Ken Finch | Walt & Doran McDaniel |
| Greeters | Beth & Dick West | Marianne Jenkins Julia King | Jan & Don Sperling | Kurt & Madelyne Car- penter | Barbara Mendoza Kristi Kampel |
| Sound | Bill Baker | Don Sperling | David Nash | Rick Hom | Don Sperling |
| Coffee Preparers | Kristi Kampel Victoria Jane Tam | Ann Johnson Janet Sather | Gary Cash Roy Bagby | Donna Touros Denise Fass | Mike & Connor Hankey |
| Worship Service | 11:00pm | 11:00am | 11:00am | 11:00pm | 11:00am |
| Worship Assistant | Bethany Draeger | Don Fleharty | Sharon Kincaid | Courtney Turner | Kyle Carpenter |
| Ushers | Roy & Vicki Chastain | Brian & Allison Reynolds | Charlie Tucker Virginia Escalante | Dick & Mary Patter- son | Lori Rapier Cary Kincaid |
| Greeters | Deborah Dunn Kim Kent | Erin, Colby & Sarah Ainsworth | Jarvis & Glenda Arellano | Jean Kern Laurie Richardson | Dick & Betty McClure |
| Sound | Joe Parente | Lauren Michelson | Ken Finch | Carroll Collier | Dick West |
| Coffee Servers | Sharon Vollstedt Erwina Bush | Dan Morris | Paul & Betty Keller | Jarvis & Glenda Arellano | Pat & Kitty Tatro |
| Tellers | Bob Connett Dick McClure | Kitty Tatro Jarvis Arellano | Jim Tracy Erwina Bush | Barbara Powell Marvette Swayzer | Helen Christenson Marilyn Becker |