

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.



Passover Seder Scheduled for Palm Sunday

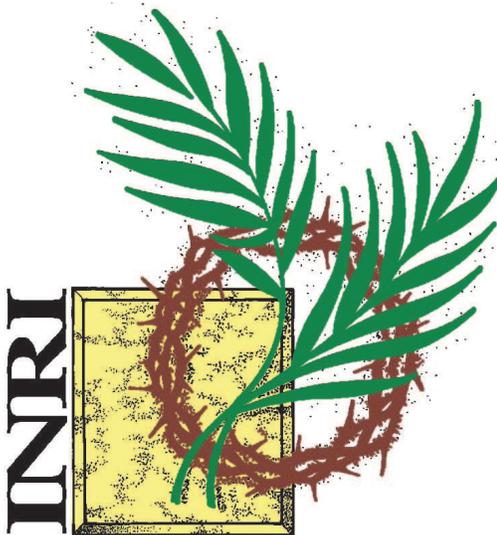
On Palm Sunday at 5:15 p.m. we hold a Passover Seder for Faith Family Night. The entire congregation is welcome to attend and encouraged to sign up in advance (in the Welcome Center) so we can prepare enough food.

During the evening we will talk about the importance of the Passover to both Jews and Christians alike. We'll hear the story of Moses and the Exodus while the children will have the opportunity for some hands-on fun as they learn about the 10 plagues. We'll all enjoy a traditional Passover meal together. Afterwards, the younger children will join Ms. Lisa while the rest of the group participates in a Seder. We'll learn about the various elements (food and drink) involved and what they symbolize.

Please join us in Link Hall for this special event this coming Sunday, March 28.



Easter Is a Great Time To Come (Or Come Back) to Faith!



In less than two weeks our congregation, along with Christians around the world, will gather to celebrate the most important event in human history, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. What happened on that Sunday 2000 years ago literally changed everything forever. This Easter we hope that you and your family will plan on joining us for the celebration. If you're here already every Sunday, we know that you're already looking forward to this day.

But maybe it's been some time since you have been here at Faith. If so, Easter Sunday is a great time to come back and join us. If you do, you'll find a community here ready to welcome you back. God is doing great things in our midst these days and we'll love to share

some of that with you.

Also, perhaps you know others who do not currently have a church family to claim as their own. Are there neighbors, friends, co-workers, even members of your family who might be willing to join us Easter Sunday if they were only extended an invitation? Why not ask someone to join you here for Easter? Who knows how God might bless your efforts to reach out.

Join us April 4th at either 6:30 (Sunrise service outside), 9:00 or 11:00. We have so much to celebrate!

What Sort of Church Are We're Supposed to Be?

Part II ~ A Church Building Disciples

I hope Faith's vision statement is familiar to you by now: *A Community Loving Christ, Building Disciples, Serving All*. In this four part column we are looking together at how our current leadership is working to see this vision



become reality here at Faith. Last month I shared how we are trying to become a church who loves Christ more by cultivating rich times of worship (both public and private) where we come to know, and in turn love, Christ more deeply. In this second part I want to share with you a bit of what we think it means to build disciples and how we are trying to promote such discipleship here at Faith.

People become disciples because Jesus calls them. And Jesus calls disciples not simply to a set of beliefs, but to a whole way of life. Luke 10:1-24, for instance, records how Jesus sent the disciples out and taught them a whole new way of life. Thus, information, transformation, and action are all a part of discipleship.

Discipleship is about "lordship." As disciples of Christ, we give up what is important to us in favor of what is important to God. This is more than just obeying God's law, though it certainly includes obedience. When we ask where we are still hindered from becoming disciples, the Spirit tells us and we joyfully submit because we know that the rewards of doing so outweigh the sacrifices. God, we know, always has our best interests in mind. And so we trust and obey.

The call to discipleship will inevitably change us as individuals and a community. The Sermon on the Mount serves as a guidebook for power to live our lives as disciples. While our culture cultivates cheap grace as it makes us think everything should come easy, fast and convenient, Christian discipleship is none of these. When we make it so, we make God's grace cheap. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer once taught, cheap grace justifies the sin (i.e. your sin is forgiven). Costly grace justifies the sinner (i.e. it requires the sinner to repent and for life to change). God is offering costly grace.

Discipleship always happens in the context of community. It's a mutual thing, too difficult a road to travel on our own. I can't grow to become more like Christ unless I am around others who are also growing towards that same goal and nurturing my growth through prayer, teaching, accountability, confession, reflection, etc.

Our goal at Faith is not simply to help people become believers or members. Our goal is to help people become disciples, men and women whose lives, in every respect, are reoriented around the grace and teachings of Jesus Christ. Romans 12:1-2 summarizes, as well as anywhere in scripture, what it means to become a disciple of Jesus Christ in this life:

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers [and sisters], by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

So how do we do that? What sorts of things is our leadership trying to promote here at Faith to build disciples? Our Session has determined that at this time the following main ministries will best serve this purpose.

#1 – Teaching the Core Foundations. To grow in a life of following Christ, we believe that every disciple needs to have a few "basics" under their belt, a few foundations which every Christian should know something about. That conviction has led us to develop the following:

- For Adults...Pathways to Discipleship: This year is our first time through this multi-part course which helps men and women to develop some of these discipleship basics. We strongly encourage every member of Faith to take each of these foundational courses at some point in the next few years. Each course will be offered at least once a year.

Continued on next page....

- Beginning with the Bible: An introduction to the scriptures, what they are and how to use them.
- Contagious Christianity: A course to help us develop practice tools in sharing our faith with others.
- Simply Christian: Designed to help people understand the basic story (i.e. beliefs, teachings, doctrines) of the Christian faith.
- Making Space for God: Helping ordinary people learn spiritual practices that can help them grow in their love for God and others (e.g. prayer, study, solitude, etc.)
- Financial Freedom: Designed to help people understand God's principles for how we handle our wealth.
- Prepare & Enrich: A marriage enrichment course designed for couples.

* For Youth...Confirmation and Student Leadership: Confirmation is a course of discipleship for youth to explore, expand and claim their faith. This is accomplished by studying scripture, learning from mentors, and growing in knowledge of core doctrines of the Christian Faith. Our student leadership team is a group of students who commit to serve as leaders on the Youth Committee and to being mentored in leadership skills and disciple in faith.

* For Children...Godly Play and Children's Worship: Godly Play is an approach to Christian formation and education. Children are introduced to and enter into the religious language of our church by hearing the stories of God, wondering and responding to the stories, praying, and celebrating. Children's Worship is designed to create a contemplative community of children 3rd through 5th grade with adult mentors from the congregation that support each other in their lives and in their spiritual development. With fellowship, prayer, discussion, food and music, we create a nurturing place for children to interact with one another, with God and with God's creation.

* For Families...Faith Family Night: This monthly ministry is designed as a primary way for us to help equip parents to use their God-given primary influence to pass on this legacy of Christian faith.

#2 – Discipleship Triads. Our Session has begun implementing a model for Christian discipleship we refer to as "triads". This is an ancient model which has been around as long as the church and one which has been renewed by some contemporary Christian leaders. One of those leaders, Greg Ogden, has defined this model of discipleship in this way:

Discipling is [meant to be] an intentional relationship in which we walk alongside other disciples in order to encourage, equip and challenge one another in love to grow toward spiritual maturity in Christ. This includes equipping the disciple to teach others as well.

This model is rooted in the way Jesus made disciples by gathering "a few" around him in intentional relationships for an extended period of time. Basically, here's how this model of mutual discipleship works.

Three people make a commitment to join one another on a mutual journey of discipleship towards maturity in Christ. This group, called a "triad", commits to meet weekly together for a period of between 9 and 15 months. During times together the reads and discusses scripture, shares with each other the joys and struggles of following Christ in this life, encourages one other and holds one other accountable, and prays together with and for one other. During times of preparation each triad members spends time studying and memorizing scripture, recording reflections, and practicing disciplines of prayer and silence.

This past year we have had four "trial" triads up and running and the initial feedback we've received has been overwhelmingly positive. We hope to see more of these groups begin in the near future.

Though there are many other ways the people of Faith will be built up as disciples, these highlight ways we believe are primary. Many of you, I know, have already taken part in some of these ministries. I hope you all will join our leadership in continuing to do so, that we each may become, day by day, more deeply committed disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I look forward to worship with you this Sunday as we seek to grow together as Christ's disciples.

Grace & Peace,
Jeff

Summer Mission Trip 2010 Needs You!

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' **Matthew 25:40 (New International Version)**



We, the members of Faith Presbyterian Church, are committed to following this commandment. We are also dedicated to fighting hunger and homelessness in the Sacramento area and elsewhere. This summer, we have a unique opportunity to help a community in need as well as learn more about how we can fight hunger and homelessness in our neighborhood.

The Summer Mission Team will head to Denver, CO the week of August 1-7. While we are there, we will work with DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection) to serve the needy population of the city. DOOR is a "faith-based network of urban service-learning programs that expose, educate, challenge, and motivate participants to respond to the issues and concerns facing an increasingly

urban world." (www.doornetwork.org)

We are inviting all who are interested to join with us on this mission trip. And the Mission trip is not just for youth! (You must be at least 13 years old) There are 30-35 spots available for this trip. To secure your spot, you must give a \$50 deposit to Mission Chair Rudy Buehler. (Checks made payable to Faith Presbyterian Church) You must also work at least 2-3 shifts at the Faith July 4th Fireworks booth. It is first come, first serve! The cost for this trip will be about \$300, which will mostly be for your airfare to Denver. Please contact Rudy Buehler if you have further questions. ((916) 376-7079, rudybuehler@hotmail.com)

God Sightings in Ethiopia!

Join us in between services on Sunday, March 28 as Walt McDaniel and Pastor Jeff Chapman share with the congregation about their recent trip to Abaya, Ethiopia. You'll see images and hear stories of how God is at work through the ministry of World Vision in Ethiopia. All are welcome!



We Need Your Donations!

The Sunday Night Women's Life Group is heading the **Grace Bags** project for Compassion Weekend and we are seeking donations of items to go inside the bags. We hope to put together 500 bags and plan to put the following inside: water bottle, granola bar or other snacks, mouthwash, shave cream, deodorant, soap, razor, band-aids, sani-wipes, kleenex, comb, shampoo/conditioner, lotion, white socks. We already have toothbrushes and toothpaste. If you can donate items, please bring them to the church and place in the bin in the narthex marked "Grace Bags." If you'd rather donate money to help purchase these products, contact DiAnne Brown at 395-6129 or send your check to Kristi in the church office.

Compassion Weekend is Coming!

Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25

PROJECT SIGN-UPS BEGIN APRIL 4 (Easter Sunday)

Outdoor Projects

- *Carwash (at Faith) to raise funds for Loaves & Fishes animal shelter
- *Bike trail clean-up (Sacramento Northern Bike Trail)
- *Trash pick-up at Garcia Bend Park

Sorting/Gathering

- *Assemble "Grace Bags" for the homeless (at Faith)
- *Bag rice and beans for SSIP food closet (at Faith)
- *Assemble school kits for needy kids (at Faith)
- Sort clothing donations at St. John's Shelter

Crafts

- Knit hats/scarves for local shelter residents (at Faith)
- Sew t-shirt dresses for Ethiopian girls (at Faith)
- *Assemble craft items for Very Special Arts festival (at Faith)

Food-Related

- Food prep at Loaves & Fishes
- Help with our Compassion Weekend Celebration Meal (at Faith)
- Distribute food to the needy at Sacramento Food Bank's mobile food distribution (at Del Paso Union Baptist Church)
- *Bake sale to raise funds for school lunch programs
- Prep food at Meals on Wheels facility

Building/Repairing

- Refurbish a house for a low-income older adult through Rebuilding Together (South Sacramento)
- Repairs at Quinn Cottages (downtown Sacramento)
- Light repairs on an older adult's house (Greenhaven)

Miscellaneous

- *Visit older adults (Eskaton and Bruceville Terrace)
- Inspect vehicles for safety

Projects that will be done entirely by Life Groups and need no additional volunteers: preparing and serving lunch at WIND Youth Center, preparing and serving lunch at St. John's Shelter, sanding dining tables at Wellspring Women's Center, repairs at Diogenes Youth Center houses

**Projects suitable for children*





Please USE YOUR NAMETAGS

Faith wants to encourage each of you to wear your nametags during the Sunday service you attend. Even though you may know many of the people in the congregation, it is important for the new people to know your name and the badges help them significantly. It is also important for the newcomers to wear their badges so that we can all get to know each other better.

If you cannot find your badge or need a new one, there is a sign up sheet right inside the door in the Narthex for you to list your name and request a badge. Bill Baker has been doing an excellent job at

Faith in making new badges. After you sign your name, check the same area within the next few weeks for your new badge.

WHAT DO-GOODING DOES FOR YOUR BRAIN

Are you a do-gooder? If you are, chances are you'll stay sharp as a tack as you age. Volunteering in a social setting-- tutoring kids in a library or school, for example--can help reverse or delay declines in brain function that happen with aging, research shows.

Plastic Brains Are Good

The thing is, your brain is plastic. No, not like those jelly bracelets from the '80s. Brain plasticity refers to its ability to change and form new connections between neurons in response to novel situations.

Unfortunately, it's natural to lose a little of this plasticity over time. And when you don't use your brain, the sluggishness gets worse. So it's essential to stay active--not just mentally but physically and socially.

Get Your Good Deed On

Volunteering fits the bill on many fronts. It challenges the brain to think critically and learn new things. It creates a social outlet. And getting involved in a good cause can add meaning and a sense of purpose in life--all good things for mental well-being. So do your brain a favor and find a volunteering effort that captures your interest, whether it's helping children find books in the library, cooking meals for shut-ins, working for the Food Closet or Loaves and Fishes. *If you are new to volunteering, check out the many projects we have available for you on Compassion Weekend April 24-25. Sign-ups begin on Easter Sunday!*



Getting Involved at Faith is Easier Than Ever!

Are you new to the church or a long-time member looking for a way to get involved, serve God, and meet some new friends? There's so much going on at Faith but how do you find out who's in charge of what? The "*Pathways to Service*" guide lists all ministries in the church with a brief description, contact person, and phone number — sort of an in-house yellow pages. Pick up your copy at the Welcome Center in the narthex or look online on our website, www.faithpresby.org. Go to the "Our Community" tab and then to "Get Involved."

Your deacons would like to remind you about a special part of the deacon ministry: Prayer blankets and shawls. These are a symbol of a faith sharing community. Prayer Blankets are lap-sized, hand-made blankets, and Prayer Shawls are hand knitted or crocheted. All are made with love and prayers. These are given to people going through difficult struggles in their life. It's a tangible reminder of healing prayers surrounding the recipient.



God has used this blessing to touch the lives of many people who have received one. They bring comfort, peace, and healing and serve to remind people they are not alone in their struggle, and that there are those who care about them.

If you, or someone you know would benefit from a prayer blanket or shawl, please contact your deacon.

Until next time - God Bless!



Deacon's Corner

Family Promise Founder comes to Sacramento

A Madison Avenue executive, Karen Olson, stopped to buy a sandwich for a homeless woman in New York City. Soon she and her two young sons began frequent trips to New York to hand out sandwiches to the homeless. After learning that there were many homeless families, Karen approached religious congregations to make their empty buildings at night available to homeless families and thus gave birth to Family Promise. That was 22 years ago. Family Promise has grown to over 150 affiliates throughout America. Over 250,000 people have found temporary homes and communities of compassion in Family Promise. Sixty percent of the guests in Family Promise have been children. The vision of Family Promise is "a nation in which every family has a home, a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future together."



Karen Olson, the founder, is coming to Sacramento to attend the 5th Anniversary Celebration of Family Promise of Sacramento. Karen is an inspirational speaker who will challenge us to continue to do the good work we are doing and to be aware of new possibilities of service.

Homeless Outreach

The celebration is Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at The Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd. There are no host cocktails at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. A donation of \$50 per person is requested. Lisa Ling, well-known journalist who produced the segment on homelessness in Sacramento for the Oprah Show, will be emcee. For more information contact Cynthia Crow (392-9141, cynthiacrow@sbcglobal.net) or Kelly Latimer (684-0811, kelly13680@surewest.net) the coordinators for Family Promise at Faith Presbyterian Church.



Cinema Premiere Benefits Safe Ground Sacramento

Safe Ground Sacramento is hosting the premiere of filmmaker Costa Mantis' extraordinary documentary on the life and times of Sacramento's homeless people as they campaign to establish a safe place to be – a safe place to rebuild lives – a place called 'Safe Ground'. The event will take place March 31st, 7-9pm at the [Historic Guild Theater](#), 2828 35th Street

in Sacramento.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Purchase tickets by emailing Tina@uptownstudios.net or Tamie@sachousingalliance.org. Tickets are also available in the Loaves & Fishes administration.

Save the Date
Sunday,
May 9
Sign-ups in
late April

