

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

EXPERIENCING CHRIST'S LOVE, EXTENDING CHRIST'S HANDS SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

February, 2010



The Easter experience begins...

Join us for **Ash Wednesday Service - Wed., Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.**, at **Grace Baptist Church** 484 East San Fernando St. at 10th St., San Jose.

We will join in worship with three other downtown congregations (First Christian, Metropolitan Community and Grace Baptist) gathered in unity for this solemn occasion. **Join us!**

Lenten Soup Suppers

Simple Soup Dinners • Fellowship • Speakers • Discussions • New Understanding

Wednesdays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

at **First Presbyterian Church** in partnership with **First Christian Church**
\$5 donation to help with costs of this series requested (but no one turned away)



This year's theme: **"Addictions: Help us understand this problem in ourselves and in others... where is there hope?"**

Each evening's presentation will include a speaker on some aspect of this condition, plus the testimony of someone who has faced this problem and overcome it. There will be time for questions and discussion.

- Feb. 24 **12 Steps and Where They Lead** presented by *Alcohol Anonymous* Spokesman **Tommy Moss**. We will learn about the history of Alcoholics Anonymous and the development of the 12 Step path to sobriety. The 12 Step plan has been adopted by many groups wanting to fight Addiction of various kinds. Learn why these 12 Steps make a profound difference to people willing to commit to following them.
- March 3 **The Effects of Alcohol and Drugs on the Brain** presented by **Lisa Frederikson**, researcher, author, speaker, consultant. Her recent book is *"If you Loved Me, You'd Stop! What You Really Need to Know When Your Loved One Drinks Too Much."* She blogs at: www.breakingthecycles.com.
- March 10 Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge **Stephen Manley** will join us and discuss the legal aspects of addicted behavior - what the local courts see on a regular basis and where addictions can lead people who cannot control their addictive behavior. Judge Manley is known for his interest in sentencing people to drug and alcohol treatment as a constructive alternative to jail time.
- March 17 **Reflections on a Visit to Recovery Cafe, Seattle** - part travelogue, part pilgrimage. First Christian Church members **Sandra Hietala, Jim Thompson** and **Pastor Dana Bainbridge** share their visit to Recovery Cafe, where a small church creates a supportive community for those recovering from addictions.
- March 24 **The Church in Recovery** - Pastors, **Bob Butzinger** and **Dana Bainbridge** reflect on what it means for people of faith to "recover" from living in an addictive culture.

5th Service
Sunday Worship
Day
January 31, 2010

First "Fifth Sunday Service Worship Day" termed a SUCCESS!

After a 10:30 a.m. Commissioning Service our congregation was released to one of five activities in which we served people in need.

Some of us manned assembly lines in the Social hall to make 32 toiletry bags and kits of supplies for the homeless teens served by the **Bill Wilson Center**. We also made up 72 bag lunches for our own "**Helping Hands**" ministry at church where we give out lunch to hungry people who come to the church door looking for food.

Some of us traveled next door to **Town Park Towers** to lead a Bingo game and provide tea and snacks for our neighbors who live there.

Still more of us traveled a few blocks away to **City Team Ministries** where we helped West Valley Presbyterian Church, our partner on this service day, lead a worship service and serve lunch to 75 homeless men and women being helped there.

Thanks to all who participated!

Treasurer's Report

The financial state of First Presbyterian Church continues to be tenuous at best. The fixed expenses, and maintenance and repair costs continue to increase while our giving has remained the same. However, the church was blessed once again with a wonderful gift from the Lomeli family to be used to support the worship and music program.

The Session called upon our Trust fund for \$120,000 to help us with operating and maintenance costs, and to pay off the line of credit owed the San Jose Presbytery. Without this assistance the church would no longer sustain itself.

For 2010, the pledged income is up. The programs supported by the congregation, like Sacred Heart and the Waterline Program, continue to grow and enhance our mission in the community. The membership in PACT has been most rewarding.

The 2009 budget and 2010 projected budget:

2009 Budget: \$254,244.00
 2009 Income: \$269,884.00
 2009 Expenses: \$269,428.00

2010 Budget: \$230,000.00



Your Connections team is already planning for 2010!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

For Palm Sunday, March 28, Connections will treat the congregation to a special fellowship time.

Lori Tierney will work with a small group to provide a Palm Sunday Brunch consisting of foods or ingredients that would have been found in Israel in biblical times. If you are an adventurous cook and would like to bring a dish, contact Lori Tierney (408-971-4420 or lorimcc@aol.com.) Lori has recipes that you can use, or you might have an idea of what you would like to do.

For Easter Sunday, April 4, Connections will again provide a cookie buffet for fellowship time/during the Easter Egg Hunt. A sign-up sheet will be available closer to Easter for those who can contribute a dozen or two. Please also consider making a sugar-free option or scones for those who want or need less of a sugar rush.

The Summer Picnic at Vasona Park will be Sunday July 18, starting at 10:30 am. Yes – we already have the site and are excited to start planning! For new friends and members, one Sunday in summer we hold our worship service at Vasona Park. Following the service, we share a great barbeque lunch followed by activities including train and merry-go-round rides. We received great feedback about the change of the traditional worship setup to a worship circle last year, so will be using the worship circle again this year. It was a lot of fun!



Downtown Sounds

is the concert series brought to you for the last several years by Charlotte Powers and the Connections team. Great concerts are provided by local talent on a Saturday Night approximately four times a year – a wonderful gift to our community and a chance to invite friends and neighbors to meet our church. Previous years have included Jazz groups (both professional and youth), as well as Hawaiian, banjo, and a capella musical groups.

This year's three **Downtown Sounds** event dates are: April 17, June 19 and Oct. 2.

Pastor's Corner

Is it just me or does everything seem to be speeding up?! I can't believe we have already moved from the Christmas season, through Epiphany and approaching Lent. February starts our Lenten journey as we crawl towards Jerusalem sharing that angst with the original disciples and 2,000 years of church history. Lent is a time of preparation for Holy Week during which we move from the fear of death to the victory over death and the birth of a whole new way of life.

The history of the church has always been dramatically linked with the events of the world. As such we recognize that God seeks CHANGE in the world and we are the change agents. It not only affects change in our personal faith but how we are to act as the church of our Lord Jesus Christ! We have come to call that social justice ministry.

So as we go to prayer having the bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other, we pray to see through the lens of God's eyes ... hope for the world. To me, the Bible clearly has a road map which includes following a path that leads to peace which makes us all Peacemakers. Peace is more than just an end to violence. It is taking seriously the words of our declaration of independence that all might know liberty, justice and the pursuit of happiness. The root of which goes beyond our individual efforts to the source: Holy Spirit!

During Lent we take time to pray and act. On Wednesdays we will study the effect of addictions on people and policy. I pray that we will also encourage our legislators to move forward in creating the critical reforms that all might have adequate health care. I pray for people whose life circumstances have pushed them outside the fence of meaningful jobs, that they will find work and hope. That seems especially critical for those who have been branded with criminal records or with addictions that push them over the edge.

I pray for an end to wars and the petty infighting that infiltrates all our institutions, especially the church. It is time for the power of diplomacy to replace force and compassion to override competition. To those who believe that Jesus was an unrealistic dreamer, I say, let's talk and pray together.

Shalom for the journey, *Pastor Bob*

Deacon's Report

The Board of Deacons wishes to thank **Annie Downum** and **Sheridan Smith** for their dedication and tireless service while part of our team. Annie has graciously consented to continue her greeting card service to the congregation. We welcome Joy Stanton back and are especially glad that Greg Plant is joining our board.
- Carol Lathrop



PLANS TO DATE

Our PACT faith-based community organizing group in which we partner with First Christian Church has chosen homelessness as our subject of interest. Members of our LOC (Local Organizing Committee) made up of members of both churches, have met monthly to discuss research meetings that have been held. Members have learned how to do quality research from PACT Organizer **Karen Belote**. So far, research meetings have been held with leaders of local homeless organizations EHC Lifebuilders, InnVision, and Family Supportive Housing, and the OneStop Center, part of Destination Home.

On March 8th, at 7 p.m. we will meet to sift through all the research data we have collected and to begin making plans for our first PACT "action." An action involves bringing our plan before public or private officials in a way in which they are compelled to address our critical issues/concerns. PACT actions are planned to be "winnable" and to advance our cause; in our case - to help the homeless.

All church members are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. For more information, talk to the **Plants, Jodie Wiepking, the Lathrops, or Pastor Bob**.

HELPING FAMILIES KEEP THEIR HOMES

Homeowners and clergy from PICO affiliates in Contra Costa County, Oakland, **San Jose, CA** and Brockton, MA held a public negotiation session with nine officials from Bank of America at Antioch Church Family in Antioch, CA.

Fifty witnesses, including religious leaders, watched the negotiations, which focused on reducing foreclosures and increasing the flow of credit into low-income communities.

PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing) boasts 1,000 member congregations across the country. Our congregation is one of those through **PACT** (People Acting in Community Together) .

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Nickolas Allen - February 3, Age: 9
Peter Wendt - February 3
Spencer Dibble - February 5, Age: 2
Terry Sinagra - February 5
Maria Arnold - February 6
Tasmin Taylor - February 8, Age: 5
Angie Reck - February 13
Madeline Davis - February 22
Carol Lathrop - February 23
Judy Lococo - February 24
Alida Pieters - February 24

OUR MISSION:

At 1st Presbyterian Church, we are a Spirit-led Community of Faith where the life and love of Jesus Christ is felt and shared.

For more information, please contact:

Reverend Bob Butziger, Pastor
Karleen Duchscherer, Administrator
Eleazar and Rebeca Inciarte, Music Directors
Alanna Spencer, Sunday School Director

Church office (408) 297-7212

email: fpcsj@yahoo.com

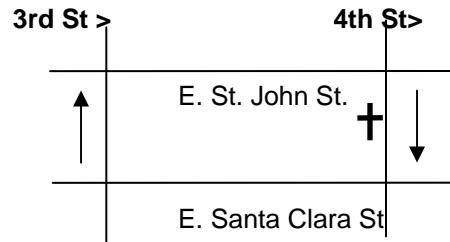
Website: www.fpcsj.org

FRIENDS, VISITORS AND NEW-COMERS - PLEASE JOIN US THIS SUNDAY!

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time: Following Worship

Children attend the first part of the worship service. Following the Children's Message, Sunday School is available for nursery through high school. High school – age children attend worship service on the first Sunday of the month, and a teen discussion other weeks.

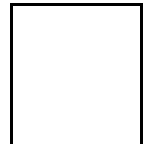


Newsletter Submissions

Please submit items to Greg Plant. Any format works (in person, church mailbox, email gregplant@comcast.net). Deadline for the March edition is Friday, **Feb. 25, 2010.**

First Presbyterian Church

49 North Fourth Street
San Jose, CA 95112



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**Lent Begins
On Ash Wednesday,
February 17
7:30 p.m.**

Four downtown churches (FPC, First Christian, Metropolitan Community and Grace Baptist) are jointly planning an Ash Wednesday service at **7:30 p.m.** at **Grace Baptist Church**, 484 East San Fernando St. at 10th St.

JOIN US!