

**Our Mission:
What are we here for?**

The purpose of Santa Clara First Baptist Church is to evangelize and disciple the people of the Santa Clara Valley. Matthew 28:19, 20

January Birthdays

Birthdays

- 8th Michele DuBord
- 11th Michelle Lasher
- 12th Tina Bell
- 13th Amy Starnes Stotzer
- 14th Jerilyn Wozniak
- 17th Michael Barife
- 18th Jon Hammar
- 20th Les Hawkins
- 23rd Geneva Ash
- 27th Daena Yuksel
- 28th Andrew Jackson
- 29th Jess Stephens

Anniversaries

- 17th Joe & Michelle Lasher
- 22nd Richard & Susi Reaves
- 23rd Larry & Fran Van Groningen

The Celebrate!

Santa Clara First Baptist Church

January 2009

Youth Spaghetti Dinner - Jan. 31st - 6pm



*Dinner Tickets available for \$10
Starting January 4th in the Narthex*

Bethlehem 2008 Recap

I want to thank everyone that participated in the Bethlehem program. It was a huge success with 14,187 visitors attending. It was awesome to see the over 270 volunteers work together and how it touched so many people's lives. We heard a lot of comments on how well done the program was and that it has become a family Christmas tradition to attend. It was exciting to see that 300 Bible's were given away in English, Spanish, Arabic, Korean, Chinese, Persian and Russian.

God was at work during the program and we pray that seeds have been planted in people's lives. Once again God has been faithful and the funds that were needed to produce this event. Many donations came through the membership of SCFBC, fund raisers, private donations, and guest donations at the gate. I want to thank everyone who contributed to the program. We are going to have a Bethlehem volunteer appreciation dinner on Saturday, January 24th at 6:00PM in the

fellowship hall. Everyone that was involved in the program is invited for dinner and sharing of your Bethlehem experiences.

Next year's Bethlehem program will be December 10th - 14th 2009. Thank you again to everyone who helped make Bethlehem a huge success.

Jerry Cintas (Little Caesar)



Bethlehem Memories 2008

JANUARY Calendar Events

Thursday Jan 1

New Year's Day – Office Closed

Saturday Jan 3

8:30am - January Diaconate Meeting–Lib

9am - Bethlehem Workday – Jerry 615-1690

10am - Leadership training MaryAnn – Parlor

10am - Prayer Quilt Ministry–Rm 19 Rhonda 246-2242/Gladys 243-6828

Sunday Jan 4

9:15am - Life Group Leaders Mtg–Rm 19

Wednesday Jan 7

10am White Cross–Narthex–Virginia N 266-1734

7:30p–The Upper Room Prayer – Sanctuary

Thursday Jan 8

10am - Prayer Quilt Ministry–Rm 19 - Rhonda

Saturday, Jan 10

9am Bethlehem workday – Jerry 615-1690

Sunday Jan 11

12p - Mission Team Mtg – Library –Karen

4pm - Back to Basics #1 – Parlor – Pastor Rich

4:30pm - Renovation Prayer Team - Library

Tuesday Jan 13

12:30pm - Bethell Circle – Barbara Chick's home

Wednesday Jan 14

12:30pm - Baits/Turley Circle – Parlor

7pm -Capital Fundraising Team–Lib

Thursday Jan 15

11:45am - Sr. & Birthday Lunch Bunch – Betty

Saturday-Sunday Jan 17/18

10am – 5pm Salvation Army Donation Truck –FH

Sunday Jan 18

9:15am- Gary Baits Presentation – Parlor

9:15am - Back to Basics #1 – Choir Room – Pastor

4pm - Back to Basics #2 – Parlor – Pastor Rich

Monday Jan 19

Martin Luther King Holiday – Office Closed

Wednesday Jan 21

6pm–CityTeam Rescue Shelter Outreach

Saturday Jan 24

8-10am - Brothers in Christ – Kitchen – Adam

6pm - Bethlehem Appreciation Banquet–FH

Sunday Jan 25

9:15am - Back to Basics #2 – Parlor-Pastor Rich

4pm - Back to Basics #3 – Parlor – Pastor Rich

5:15pm - AWANA Drive-in Movie night–Jon

Wednesday Jan 28

7pm -Capital Fundraising Team – Library

Saturday Jan 31

8:30am- February Diaconate Meeting–Library

10am - Leadership training –Library - MaryAnn

6pm - 4th Annual Youth Spaghetti Dinner –FH –Andrew 278-1996

Up-coming Events

FEBRUARY

1– 9:15am Life Group Leaders Mtg. – Rm 19

1 - 9:15am Back to Basics #3–Parlor-Pastor

1 - 4pm Back to Basics #4–Parlor–Pastor

4 - 10am White Cross – Narthex – Virginia N.

4 - 7:30p–The Upper Room Prayer – Sanctuary

5/7 – EHC homeless housing–Karen 246-6253

7 –10am Prayer Quilt Ministry–Rm 19 Rhonda

8 –Scout Sunday

8 – 9:15am Back to Basics #4 – Parlor - Pastor

10 - 12:30pm Bethell Circle – TBD

11- 12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle – Parlor

11 -7pm -Capital Fundraising Team – Library

12– 10am Prayer Quilt Ministry – Rm 19

13/16– Reflect Winter Retreat–Andrew

15 – Lenten Series Starts

15– 9:15am Freed-Up #1 – Parlor

15 - 12-3p Capital Fund Raising Team – Lib

16 - President's Day Holiday – Office Closed

18 – 6pm -CityTeam Outreach – Jonathan

19 -11:45am Sr. & Birthday Lunch Bunch

22 - 9:15am Freed-Up #2 – Parlor

22–12pm Quarterly Family Gathering/annual report

22–7pm Quarterly Family Gathering/annual report

25- 7pm -Capital Fundraising Team– Library

27-3/1–Element Winter Retreat-Jerry 615-1690

28 - 8-10am Brothers in Christ – Kitchen

28- 8:30am March Diaconate Meeting–Library

28 - 10am Leadership training –Lib-MaryAnn

MARCH

1- 9:15am Life Group Leaders Mtg. – Rm 19

1 - 9:15am Freed-Up #3 – Parlor

4 - 10am White Cross – Narthex – Virginia N

4 - 7:30p–The Upper Room Prayer – Sanctuary

6 – World Day of Prayer

7 - 10am Prayer Quilt Ministry – Rm 19

8 - 9:15am Freed-Up #4 – Parlor

10 - 12:30pm Bethell Circle – Maxine's home

11-12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle–Helen H.

11 - 7pm -Capital Fundraising Team – Lib

12 - 10am Prayer Quilt Ministry – Rm 19

14 – ABW Coastal Valley Rally – carpool to PA

15 - 9:15am Freed-Up #5 – Parlor

15 -12-2p -Capital Fundraising Team – Library

18 – 6pm - CityTeam Outreach – Jonathan

19 -11:45am Sr. & Birthday Lunch Bunch

21–12pm ABW Scholarship Benefit Lunch California Arts

– Barbara C 739-2935

22 - 9:15am Freed-Up #6 – Parlor

25 – 7pm Leadership Harvest dessert events

28 - 8-10am Brothers in Christ – Kitchen

28 - 7pm –All Church Harvest Dinner Event – FH

In Memory,

What If by Betty Lou Carlson

What if everyone said no? What if no one cared?
Children in need, so many to feed. Widows and orphans, too. What can we do?

Asked if they'll help, most people say, no
I'm too busy, you see, please, don't call on me. So much to do and so much to see, don't count on me.

A person in need, please don't plead. I won't lead
What if there was no love or concern anywhere? What a terrible world it would be if weren't willing to share.

So long ago when Jesus was asked to die for our sins, what if He said no?

What people are saying!

I was one of the greeters for Bethlehem 2008. I also spoke with our guests as they were leaving. The most spoken words were "what an overwhelming experience" and questions like "is a doll used as Jesus in the manger?" with complete surprise (and joy) that we were blessed to have babies from our congregation.

Many enjoyed seeing the baby camel and the great number of animals in general. After one of the Bethlehem shows, two Iraqi women came over to speak with me. They were so grateful to be able to experience the beauty of the birth of Jesus.

The older woman who was 85 years old, had tears streaming down her face and hugged me for at least 5 minutes. Her daughter translated to me just how meaningful Bethlehem was to both of them. They also commented on how much love and effort went into this beautiful presentation.

Chelsea Trigg

An inspiring production..... I was brought to tears. Thank you for bringing the message of Christ to Silicon Valley. (this note was sent with a \$100 donation)

Grace M. Kvamme

Our Christmas season starts with coming to your Bethlehem Program!

Our family looks forward to this event every year! We have been coming for over 8 years!

AWESOME!

INCREDIBLE!

(see insert for more comments)

Youth News

Reflect High School Group



December was a month where we broke from our usual routine. We ventured down to First Baptist Church of Salinas to take in their "Streets of Bethlehem" show. It was different and fun to watch the show, rather than be in the show. The next week the high school group participated in their usual role of being part of the Wise Men's entourage at our production of Bethlehem, escorting the Wise men through the town 23 times in the freezing cold.

Additionally, other High School youth served hot chocolate to the crowd. It was awesome to see such a large contingent of youth braving the cold. We also had our annual Christmas party, where we enjoyed a huge spread of food and the always amusing gift exchange.

The Element Jr. High Group



Element also took a break from the usual routine during the month of December. We went ice skating at Vallco and laughed as many of the youth repeatedly fell on their butts and were skating around with wet bottoms. The next week, Element members participated in Bethlehem, portraying various townspeople over the five cold nights. Element also had their annual Christmas party, enjoying awesome food as well as some Christmas themed games. We searched for Santa in the deserted town of Bethlehem, built human Christmas trees, had a battle of Christmas carols, played "Grandma got ran over by a reindeer", and enjoyed "Santa's Wild Ride" with Stephanie Raymond wiping out big time as Santa as the unruly reindeer where not very good pullers. Most importantly, Element members took some time and helped create Christmas cards for the shut-ins. It is truly a blessing to see the youth take time out for others as they have done this month.



Sunday Groups

Committed is continuing our study of the book of Mark, reading the first teachings of Jesus and how they still apply in our lives today. The **AB Girls** group on Sundays at 4 PM continues to meet in the youth room to watch and discuss the *Gilmore Girls* series.

Mexico Outreach 2009

Plans are already underway for our annual weeklong trip to Ensenada, Mexico. This year's trip will be from June 20th to June 28th. This trip, a life changing trip for many, will be led this year by Fion Cheng and Tim McLene-gan. The cost of the trip will be \$400, but many fundraisers will be held leading up to the trip. An informational meeting will be held **February 8th** after each worship service for those interested. This trip is open to anyone completing 8th grade or higher, and adults are welcome as well.



Youth Spaghetti Dinner - Jan. 31st 6pm

This is the 5th year that the youth department will host the entire church congregation for an evening in our Ristorante Baptista. Last year we raised over \$2,000, allowing us to reduce our youth winter retreat fees by \$60 per youth. We encourage you to help support the youth by coming out for a night of great food, entertainment, fun, and service, all provided by the youth of SCFBC. Tickets will be on sale after worship services starting January 4th.



~Youth Staff *Danijela, Sean, Alexandra, Fion, Amy, Christine, Jerry, Jasmine, Mary, Andrew*

Upcoming EVENTS

Jan 9th - Guys Game Night. 6pm-12am
Jan 24th - Bethlehem Appreciation Dinner. 6pm
Jan 31st - 5th Annual Spaghetti Dinner. 6pm
Feb 13th - 16th - Reflect Winter Retreat
Feb 27th - Mar 1st - Element Winter Retreat
More events at www.scfbc.org/element &
www.scfbc.org/reflect

Children's Ministry

As I reflect on the Children's Ministry and those who dedicate their time, energy and talents to the spiritual growth and development of our most precious and valuable asset, our children, I am so thankful for all God has blessed us with and for His faithfulness to us.

I look forward to a new year, new beginnings and new growth in our ministry and in the lives of our children.

If you feel God pulling on the strings of your heart and you have a passion for kids, please consider making a new commitment to the Children's Ministry and investing in the life of a child.

GOD HAS CALLED YOU to something. Have you answered the call? God Bless You.

Tammy Altizer Catterton
Children's Ministry

Missions Update

Gary Baits, missionary from Costa Rica. Our missionary, Gary Baits will be back in the United States and with us on Sunday, January 18th and possibly Saturday, January 17th. Please make some time to join him for lunch, Sunday school or just make him welcome as he is part of our church family.

Hosting the homeless for EHC in 2009. SCFBC will be hosting the homeless at our church on February 5 -8 next year. Please get a current TB test and keep a copy of results to be a part of this project to cook or serve meals. There is a requirement that you have a current TB test. We will need a copy of the results to send to EHC. Please consider cooking or serving a meal with your small group as a community project. We will be asking for groups of volunteers as we would like to serve some meals when we will be hosting at our church.

Please pray for the missions projects God would like to have SCFBC be a part of locally, nationally, and internationally in 2009.

May we work together and look forward to the adventure Our Lord has for us!

SCFBC Missions Deacon

Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

Prayer Requests for

- **Travel mercies for Church families and friends during the holidays.**
- **The many Church family and friends** who have been battling colds and the flu.
- **MaryAnn Fairall's** granddaughter, **Autumn**, and her family during her ongoing leukemia treatments.

Praise Report

- **Larry Van Groningen's** mother, **Joan**, is feeling much better and continuing to heal. **Joan** says, "Thank you for your prayers!"
- **God's healing** of many recently ill or hospitalized.
- **Have a safe, healthy and Happy New Year!**

Renovation Prayer Requests, Pray That

- We will each seek to answer the question, "What does **Jesus want me to do** for the renovation?"
- **SCFBC will be a united and stronger church** through the renovation.
- **The City of Santa Clara** has approved SCFBC's plans for renovation of the Sanctuary and a permit has been issued for the work to begin. Praise the Lord!

Seniors/Birthday Lunch Bunch

Attention Seniors! The Birthday Bunch meets the third Thursday of each month at 11:45am, at various restaurants in the area. We'd like to invite you to join our fellowship and celebrate the birthdays of the month. We'll be meeting January 15th, location to be announced later. Please join us! If you are planning to attend, please call Betty Downing at 244-5949.



Comments from our visitors to Bethlehem 2008

“We had no idea that this event existed, and we are so glad that we came!”

“Thank you for putting this on year after year!”

Children’s comments: I even started asking some of the kids/children, What was your favorite part of Bethlehem”?

“I just love the camel and donkey! They are COOL”!

“This is the 7th. time that I have come and each time is SUPER! Comment by a 10 year old girl.

“I love the baby Jesus, because HE is REAL” and I get to see him”!

“I like the hot chocolate”!

“One parent shared with me..... My child looks forward to this event each year, and each time we come, we have to stay for at least 3 performances”!

“The guards are MEAN”!

“Another parent shared with me that it would not be Christmas if they did not attend Bethlehem!”

Additional Comments:

“It looks so real and very authentic”!

“It feels like stepping back in time or that you are on a different planet”!

“How long does it take to set up everything”?

“How many people does it take to set up Bethlehem”?

In closing: I was very moved by the responses from our visitors in how this event brings a special joy to everyone!



AWANA continues to be the best place for kids on Sunday nights. Don’t take just my word. Listen to the AWANA team at Santa Clara First Baptist.

I like AWANA because:

- “It gives me an opportunity to interact with the children of the church and their parents.”
- “It’s fun seeing the kids having a good time at church, so they learn church can be a fun place.”
- “I feel I am doing a job God called me to do.”

I love AWANA because:

- “AWANA focuses on learning of the Words of God.”
- “AWANA promotes the importance of discipline in a loving and Godly way.”
- “AWANA builds unity and friendship among leaders.”

JOIN US SUNDAY NIGHTS AT 5:15

Our kids have fun and our leaders have fun!

Join our team and be a part of teaching children the scripture!

Bring your children or grandchildren they will have fun and learn about the Gospel of Christ!

Volunteers

AWANA is run completely through volunteers. We have a wonderful team of trained volunteers, but we can always use more. If you feel God’s tug on your heart to be a part of this ministry, contact Commander Jon.

If you have any questions, call Commander Jon Hammar at 248-2078 or contact him through email at jhammar@jbear.org.

The AWANA team wishes you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Commander Jon