



3111 Benton Street
Santa Clara, CA 95051
Telephone: 408-241-7635

**Our Mission:
Why are we here?**

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

The Celebrate!

Santa Clara First Baptist Church

January 2012

Life Groups 2.0

Plug in . Connect . Recharge



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1st Bill Gregg
- 8th Michele DuBord
- 8th Sgt Megan Caswell (Army)
- 9th Martin Gregoire
- 11th Michelle Lasher
- 12th Tina Bell
- 14th Jerilyn Wozniak
- 17th Michael Barife
- 18th Jon Hammar
- 20th Les Hawkins
- 20th Robert Gregoire
- 23rd Geneva Ash
- 23rd Jane Bush
- 24th Kimberly Barnett
- 24th Haley Trigg
- 26th Fion Cheng
- 26th Amy Trigg

- 27th Daena Yuksel
 - 28th Andrew Jackson
 - 29th Jess Stephens
 - 30th Dwight Whipple
- Anniversaries**
- 17th Joe & Michelle Lasher
 - 22nd Richard & Susi Reaves
 - 23rd Larry & Fran Van Groningen

Santa Clara First Baptist Church
Winter/Spring Trimester 2012

Rolling out...

Life Groups 2.0!

It's time! January is the month to sign up for new Life Groups, and the Life Groups 2.0 brochure is now available in print or on the SCFBC website. By using this brochure, you can find a Life Group that best matches your needs and schedule. All through January we will take sign-ups for Life Groups. **Remember—you need to sign up for a Life Group even if you plan to join a group you have already attended. Sign-ups end February 4th and spaces fill up, so don't delay!**

What is a Life Group?

Life Groups are the small groups that meet in homes and other locations. They give people in the church a chance to get to know each other better, make friends, support each other and grow in our faith. We offer a range of Life Groups for all ages and with all sorts of interests.

Why trimesters?

As we discussed in the November *Celebrate!*, all Life Groups will operate on a trimester calendar. They will start the same week, meet for about twelve weeks, and break for a month in order to form new groups, recruit new leaders, and allow time for sign-ups for the next trimester. Having a common starting point gives everyone a chance to join in a group at the beginning. Having an end date means you can join a group without "signing your life away" either as a participant or a leader. The Life Groups stay fresh and growing!

Will I have to pray in front of other people?

No one is singled out to do anything in front of the group. All participation is determined by the individual, moving forward at his/her comfort level.

So how do I sign up?

Signing up for a Life Group is simple! All you do is look through the brochure and pick the group you want to join. Then you write the group number on the back of your registration card and drop it in the offering plate or at the Information Table in the Lobby. You can also sign up online at <http://www.scfbc.org>.

Why are we changing the existing Life Groups?

Many people in our church have been in Life Groups and have thoroughly enjoyed it. But many hesitate to join a group that has been meeting together for years or they are nervous about getting tied to one group indefinitely. Having trimesters also allows people to lead groups when their schedules permit and still be able to take off a trimester if they need to.

But I like the Life Group I'm already in. Can I still be in the same Life Group?

Of course you are welcome to sign up for any group you want, and if you want to continue with the same leader (if the leader chooses to lead the same group), you can sign up for that group. Some groups may take an additional trimester to finish a study. **But remember, you must sign up for your Life Group even if you have already been part of it.**

If we want to grow and mature in our faith, we need the encouragement of other believers. The truth is you can't really grow spiritually in isolation. By joining a Life Group, you will make friends, be challenged in your faith, and have a lot of fun at the same time. Sign up today!

If you have any questions, or would like more information about Life Groups, contact Jenny Gregg (jennygregg@comcast.net) or 408-244-0985.

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 1 – New Year's Day
- 2 – New Years Day Holiday observed
- 4– 10am White Cross – Lobby - Virginia N's 266-1734
- 6-8 – High School Winter Retreat – Andrew 278-1996
- 6-8 – Leaders Retreat/Diaconate Mtg – Redwood Glen
- 7- 10am Prayer Quilt –Rm 19 - Rhonda 246-2242
- 8 – 12p Life Group Leaders Mtg – Rm 19 – Pastor Rich
- 8 – 6pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
- 10–1:00pm Bethell Circle–Barbara C's home–739-2935
- 11–12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle – Parlor
- 12 -10am Prayer Quilt –Rm 19 Rhonda 246-2242
- 14 – 8:30am Men's Ministry – Kit– Adam 230-6848
- 15 – 12:15pm – Mission/Schools Team Mtg – Lib–Jim
- 16-7pm Finance Comm Mtg – Library – Dan 892-8213
- 16–**Martin Luther King Holiday – Office Closed**
- 18- 6pm CityTeam Outreach–Jonathan 813-2505
- 23 – *February Celebrate articles due to Dave*
- 26 - 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch – Betty 244-5949
- 27-29 – Jr. HS Winter Retreat – Jerry 615-1690

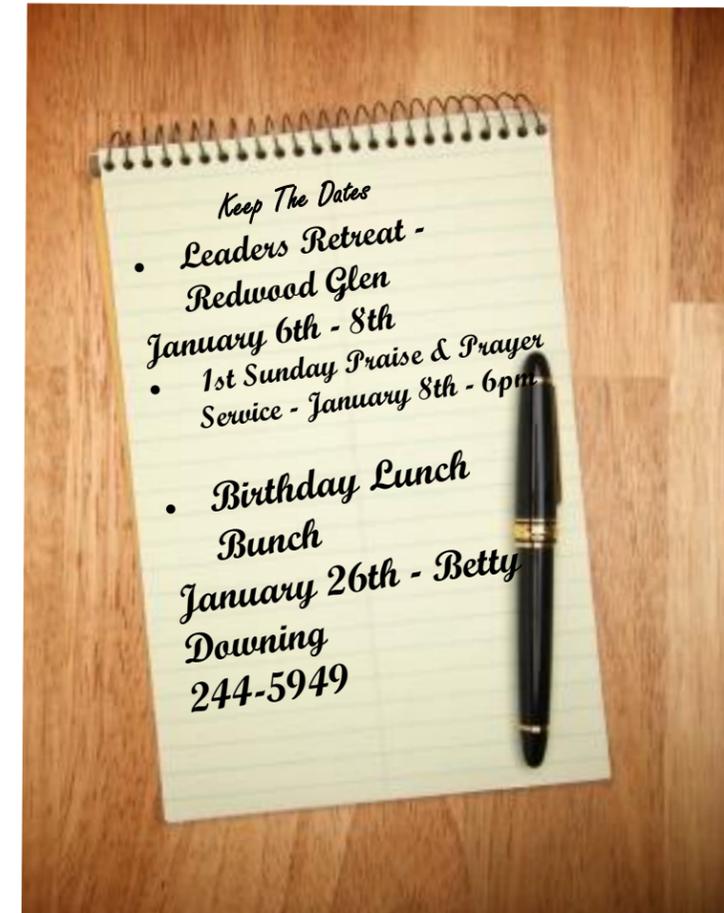
Up-coming events

FEBRUARY

- 1 - 10am White Cross – Lobby – Virginia N. 266-1734
- 2 – *Diaconate 2011 Annual Reports due to Dave*
- 4- 8:30am Diaconate Mtg – Lib – Barbara C. 739-2935
- 4–10am Prayer Quilt –Rm 19–Rhonda 242-2242
- 5 – New Life Groups starting
- 5–12p Life Group Leaders Mtg– Rm 19 – Pastor Rich
- 5– 6pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
- 8- 12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle – Gladys home
- 9– 10am Prayer Quilt Ministry – Rm 19 – Rhonda
- 11 - 8:30am Men's Ministry– Kit – Adam 230-6848
- 12–12pm Quarterly Family Gathering –annual report–FH–Barbara C. 739-2935
- 14– 1:00pm Bethell Cir – Marlene's home
- 15 – 6pm -CityTeam Outreach – Jonathan 813-2505
- 19 - 12:15pm – Mission/Schools Team Mtg – Lib–Jim
- 20 - **President's Day Holiday – Office Closed**
- 20 -7pm Finance Mtg– Lib – Dan 892-8213
- 20 – *March Celebrate articles due to Dave*
- 23- 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch – Betty 244-5949
- 25- 11am Scholarship Brunch – FH – Ellen Imhof

MARCH

- Mission Emphasis: America for Christ Offering**
- 2 – World Day of Prayer
- 3 - 8:30am Diaconate Mtg– Lib– Barbara C. 739-2935
- 3 – 10am Prayer Quilt –Rm 19–Rhonda 242-2242
- 3 – ABW Spring Mtg – Selma FBC, Oakland – Ellen
- 4 - 6pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
- 6- 12p Life Group Leaders Mtg – Rm 19 – Pastor Rich
- 7 - 10am White Cross – Lobby – Virginia N. 266-1734
- 8 -10am Prayer Quilt Ministry – Rm 19 – Rhonda
- 10 – 8:30am - Men's Breakfast- FH – Adam 230- 6848
- 11 - 12noon - Mission/Schools Mtg – Lib – Jim G
- 12 – 10am All Church Workday – Michael – 691-1441
- 13 – 1:00pm Bethell Circle – Vera Masters home
- 14 – 12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle – Parlor
- 19 -7pm Finance Mtg – Lib – Dan 892-8213
- 21 – 6pm - CityTeam Outreach – Jonathan 813-2505
- 22 - 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch – RSVP Betty 244-5949
- 26 – *April Celebrate articles due to Dave*
- 30-31 – Youth 30 Hour Famine Event
- 31 - 8:30am April Diaconate Mtg –Lib– Barbara C



Bits & Pieces

Pre-season Potluck

The Chicks Home Bible Study Life Group invites you a “Pre-Season Potluck” in preparation for the new season of studies in February. The potluck will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, January 4th, at the home of Chuck and Barbara Chicks.

This Life Group will begin a study of the Old Testament book, Judges, the following Wednesday, January 11th. This book deals with a fascinating period of Hebrew history when there were no strong national leaders. Come to the potluck and meet the group. You may then:

- Wait for a new group to start in February
- Join the study of Judges through January and then join a new group in February
- Join the study of Judges and continue with it.

Come to the potluck for good food and fellowship and then resume whatever you usually do on Wednesdays.

Let Chuck or Barbara know if you will come to the potluck – 408-739-2935.

First Sunday Praise and Prayer Service January 8, 2012

All praises due our Lord and Savior as we have seen our First Sunday service is being well attended. Please come and bring a friend as we seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance and direction for SCFBC. Because New Year’s Day is on the first Sunday of January, this service is being moved to January 8th at 6:00pm. Be sure to come and experience this time together.

Birthday Lunch Bunch

Hey Seniors...save the date! Thursday, January 26th at 11:45am! Come and have good Christian fellowship at the Birthday Lunch Bunch gathering at Marie Callender’s on El Camino Real in Sunnyvale. For additional information, contact Betty Downing at 244-5949.

ABW Ministries of the West

2011-2012 Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 11:00am

Come on out and join with us in supporting our scholarship recipients:

Worthemmi Luikham

Tanisha I. Sparks

Both are students attending American Baptist Seminary of the West.

Bacone College - Muskogee, Oklahoma
Convention Baptist College - Philippines

Both schools will receive scholarships of equal value.

Maturity Report

A Resolution with Eternal Rewards!

There’s an old saying that just being in a garage doesn’t make you are a car. I’ve heard that related to exercise—just because you step into a gym doesn’t mean that you are physically fit. And of course, this could also apply to Christians—just because you go to church, doesn’t mean that you are a disciple of Jesus.

We’ve been talking about restoring this church—getting back to basics, repentance, and the gospel. But many of us don’t make the connection between “the church” (or “SCFBC”) and “me”. Amos prophesied against the people of Judah in the Old Testament. They thought that they were secure and safe because they enjoyed the status of being God’s people—even though they as individuals worshipped idols, oppressed the poor, and turned a blind eye to the social injustices around them. They smugly believed that because they enjoyed peace and prosperity as a nation, they had Yahweh’s blessing and seal of approval. It is so easy for us to slip into that mentality ourselves. We may agree that the focus of our church needs to be renewed, but unless individuals change in conjunction with a restoration at SCFBC, then restoring the church is a waste of time.

What kind of link are you?

*“You must be the change
you want to see in the
world.”*

~Mahatma Gandhi

My choir teacher used to nag us to learn our parts, to practice, and to come to rehearsal ready to sing. He would say, “A chain is only as strong as the weakest link”—meaning that we would never be an excellent choir unless every individual carried their weight. Who cares that everyone else sounded fabulous, if Jenny was in the alto section hitting clinkers?

God said to those comfortable, complacent residents of Judah:

⁶ With what shall I come to the LORD *and* bow myself before the God on high?

Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves?

⁷ Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, in ten thousand rivers of oil?

Shall I present my firstborn *for* my rebellious acts, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:6-8 (NASB)

A member of SCFBC might try reading it this way:

⁶ With what shall I come to the LORD *and* bow myself before the God on high?

Shall I come to Him with great worship services and other programs, with our Bethlehem Experience?

⁷ Does the LORD take delight in sending mission teams to Mexico?

Shall I tithe more of my hard-earned money for the sin of my soul?

⁸ He has told you, (*insert your name here*), what is good;

"See that justice is done,

let mercy (compassion and love expressed in tangible ways) be your first concern, and humbly obey your God."

As we start off a new year, let’s each individually resolve to become the followers God calls us to be. Only then can Santa Clara First Baptist Church be the church God wants it to be.

Jenny Gregg

Deacon of Maturity

Missions Update

Last Celebrate, I reported that Pastor Victor Romero Juarez and Saul Hinojosa Ontiveros from our partner church Rayo de Luz were in a fatal car accident November 16th. Pastor Victor is survived by his wife Estela, daughter Raquel, and sons Jacob and Felix. Saul is survived by his wife and son Adrian. Andrew Wong (andrew@scfbc.org or 408-858-7572) is coordinating assistance for the families. Please keep the families in your prayers and contact Andrew if you'd like to help.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sacred Heart has volunteer opportunities perfect for individuals, families, or Life Groups. They need volunteers to receive and sort food and clothes donations on Saturday mornings (9-12). Their facility is located at 1381 S. First Street in San Jose. To volunteer contact Shannon at shannon.mcmaken@gmail.com or directly to volunteers@sacredhearts.org or 408-278-2170.

City Team Ministries has numerous individual or group opportunities. Check out Family and Youth Outreach (for example) at <http://www.cityteam.org/san-jose/volunteer/> or contact Dick House at dhouse@cityteam.org. X Factor (Jonathan Fung) is another way to minister at CityTeam. X Factor leads in worship on the 3rd Wednesday evening a month.

Mission to Schools and Students – Scott Lane Elementary

School Supply Donation Drive

Thank you for all the donations already given for our Scott Lane Donation Drive. We will continue to collect school supplies through the month of January, so keep them coming. For a list of suggested items, please pick up a flyer at the Information Table in the Library. We suggest picking up items as you go. **Currently Kleenex and hand sanitizer are the shortest in supply.** Donations may be dropped off in the labeled tub in the Lobby. For more information contact Peggy Shalloe (apney2many@att.net) or Michelle Lasher (mklasher@sbcglobal.net).

Box Tops for Education

You can drop off your box tops at the Information Table in the “Box Top Box.” For more information contact Peggy Shalloe (apney2many@att.net). We've already shared some with the school.

Ongoing Support

We will be checking with Scott Lane from time to time to ensure that as needs arise, we're made aware and can help to the fullest extent possible. In the past we've been able to provide jackets and field trip scholarship money to needy children and help teachers move their classrooms. Notice will probably be short and the need will be great. If you're interested in being an “on-call” volunteer (as possible), let Kimberly Barnett (kbarnett124@gmail.com) or Michelle or Peggy know of your willingness to help. Thanks.

Jim Garvey

Deacon on Missions

Bethlehem 2011



Renovation Update!

We didn't write an article in November, but are super excited to see the Sanctuary very close to completion with the new carpet installed and the stage completed. What a big difference carpet makes. The room used to feel cold and dirty and now feels warm and alive. Thanks again to **Steve Erling** for providing his installers and discounts on the carpet. **Tom Caldwell** has also been in the Sanctuary, touching up paint and finishing up paint projects. It is looking great!



Mike Depew poured the new ramp into the sanctuary and it so much nicer not having the thresholds to walk over.

Ken Rangel has finished up the tile in the west entry and it looks great.

In December we started our final inspections with the City of Santa Clara. The Fire Inspection went fairly smoothly with no big problems except for some questions on the Lobby exit plan. Fire handed over the decisions on that to the building department, but we don't foresee any big hurdles. The building inspections came through and the City wants us to complete some firewalls in the pastors' offices before they finalize the project. It is our hope that we can get those firewalls and doors completed in January. We also need to do some additional modifications in the restrooms to bring them up to full ADA compatibility and work on the hot water heater in the custodian closet.



The rear glass windows are still going through changes, as our repeated attempts to effectively darken the windows have failed. We will be working on using a new window film tint on a couple of windows the first week of January to see if that gives us the desired effect we are wanting.

Overall we are very excited to see how beautiful the whole project has turned out and want to thank Sharon Cintas again for her beautiful color and decor ideas.

The Building Committee

Jerry Cintas, Lloyd Darknell, Mike Depew, Joe Lasher

Property Corner



Volunteers: The Property Department would like to thank everyone who continues to give of their time and talents throughout the year!

New Property Deacon: Welcome to Larry Van Groningen as the new Property Deacon (2 year term).

Internet Service: Our internet service will be changed to Comcast sometime in early 2012.

Future Projects: The Property Department is looking into various projects for 2012 and beyond including: Youth Room remodel/upgrade, exterior painting, playground equipment changes, Education Wing remodeling/upgrades, re-paving of parking lots, and installation of solar panels, just to name a few.

Bethlehem Storage Building: All that remains for this project is painting the building and installing a fence and gates. The Boy Scouts are discussing about completing a small concrete project behind the building come spring time, so stay tuned for more details.

Sanctuary Remodeling: The handrails has been installed and ready for final inspection. Please see Jerry Cintas article for more information. Some minor trim work and painting will be completed soon as well.

Fellowship Hall Fences: The church has had an initial discussion with two neighbors regarding the property fencing at two locations. Their construction projects are now complete and the fencing is the final step and should be in place soon.

Reminder: Please make sure that when you leave a building, classroom, etc. that all the doors are locked, windows closed, all lights and air/heat turned off. Thanks for helping keep our utility expenses to a minimum.

General: Please contact Larry, Dave Wilson or myself should you see something that needs to be fixed or is in need of repair!

Heartfelt Thanks: As the outgoing Property Deacon, I thank everyone who continues to support our church and God's plan for SCFBC here in Silicon Valley! There is so much that all of you do... day in and day to make this happen! Thank you for all of your support during my term of service. It has been a pleasure to serve!

Your Brother In Christ,

Mike Depew
Deacon of Property



Youth News



Reflect High School Group

In December, we took a break from our study of the parables, to join with the church in the Bethlehem production and have our annual Christmas party. As usual, the high school job at Bethlehem was being a part of the Wiseman's entourage. The guys played their role in bringing the Wiseman into town 27 times (including practice runs) while the girls looked beautiful dancing and accompanying the entourage into town. After Bethlehem was completed, Reflect held their annual Christmas party, with lots of food, and a white elephant gift exchange, where awesome presents of canned meat, flavored nail polish, and hard to pop bubbles were the most interesting gifts. Additionally, Reflect took a trip up to San Francisco for the day to shop, and enjoy the Christmas

decorations and food by the Bay.

The Element Jr. High Group

In December, we had a blast doing Christmas related stuff. Fion started the month with sharing her story of her trip to Africa and all the people she met and helped. We also worked in Bethlehem in the Market Place with the kids helping in the different booths. Our favorite thing is playing hide and seek at night in Bethlehem a week after the program is over. We also had a Christmas lesson where we read through the Biblical accounts of the Christmas story, and a Christmas party where we played crazy Christmas games and made Christmas cards.



Committed

Committed continues to read through The Story, a chronological Bible that has been revised to read like a story. Both High School and Jr High meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Youth Room with Kimberly Barnett.



Book Nook and Library Corner

Happy New Year - what is your goal for reading books or watching Christian movies for 2012?

Are you setting up once a week or once a month for a "family night" to view a Christian movie with family and friends? There are plenty of Dove approved movies to choose from for a variety of ages for your enjoyment. We always have a few in the Book Nook and there are plenty more in the library.

Social Injustices - One of the book topics in the library are Social justice issues in section 11 - things we need to learn about and pray about and be concerned with, such as Human Trafficking and injustices against women and children. These are the books that we've put out in the Book Nook this month. Jesus wants us to care about each other and care about people who can't help themselves. The more we learn the more God puts it on our hearts to care and then to respond and DO something.— even if it is having conversations with others about the issues...we have books on the subject:

Ideas for reading books to very young children to make book-time more fun— even Bible book stories found in section 19!

- Accommodate the needs of the child
- Use your own words based on what the pictures are
- Be expressive—put "life" into your voice
- Point to words and pictures so the child can follow
- Read the book repeatedly - children like that
- Encourage the child's participation
- Remember that "reading time" may really be a request for "sit and cuddle" time
- Priceless!



Movie reviews:

"The Perfect Stranger" - based on the book "Dinner With a Perfect Stranger", thought provoking
 "Another Perfect Stranger"- sequel to the one above—see it first; both are excellent movies

Thank You for your books and DVD's contributions that we are able to take to Book Buyers and Book Traders which generates trade funds to buy additional or updated materials for the SCFBC Library. Thank you for your monetary contributions for the Library also. **Thanks** to your generous contributions, materials are always coming and being processed in!



Happy New Year from the Library Committee

Upcoming EVENTS

January 6th—8th - Reflect Winter Retreat
 January 27th—29th - Element Winter Retreat

More events at www.scfbc.org/element
 & www.scfbc.org/reflect