

The Celebrate!

Santa Clara First Baptist Church

August 2012



Church Assessment

Our church will be going through a very important assessment process beginning in late July, and ending in an assessment weekend to be held **September 7-9**. This assessment is critical for us to be as effective as possible in our ministry here. We need everyone to be involved in order to reap as much benefit as we can from this experience. Below is the schedule for the assessment.

Please make every effort to be available and participate.

Church Survey—Fill out a survey! Surveys available online and hardcopy now until August 20.

Focus Groups— Various focus group meetings will be held on **September 7 and 8**. We need every person to participate.

Report Presentation— Dr. Bill Hoyt and his team will present their findings on **September 9** after the worship service.

More information can be found inside...

Time for a Checkup!



Last month I visited my doctor for my annual checkup. He measured my blood pressure, listened to my heart and sent me to the lab to get my blood drawn. Thankfully all of these tests confirmed that my physical body is working well. These checkups are necessary to see if my body is working properly and all the more important since I began taking blood-pressure medication.

It's now time for our church to undergo a kind of checkup. This checkup will reveal the health of the systems and relationships within our particular body of Christ. The church's leadership has determined that changes must be made in our church if it is to have an effective outreach and discipling ministry in this valley and around the world.

To perform this checkup we have secured the services of Dr. Bill Hoyt, a church consultant who works with our Region. He has performed over 400 such checkups (assessments) for churches large and small all over our country. His wisdom, insight and experience will add greatly to our understanding of our present condition and what we need to do to move forward in ministry.

As a part of the assessment process we are asking each individual in our SCFBC family to do three things:

- 1) **Fill out a Survey** that will shortly be made available both on-line or with hard copy. We will have four weeks to complete this task- from July 29 through August 20.
- 2) **Participate in a "Focus Group"** that will be offered on September 7-8. There will be a number of these groups offered for different segments of our congregation (staff, deacons, ministry team leaders, ministry workers, new comers to the church, senior citizens and one for anybody else not already mentioned.) We will begin to take signups for these groups in the month of August.
- 3) **Attend the Report Presentation** by Dr. Hoyt on September 9 right after the morning worship service. At this presentation Dr. Hoyt will share with us his insights stemming from our church's checkup and important next steps for us to get healthier and more effective for God's Kingdom work.

I can't stress how important this assessment process is for our church at this time. It has become evident that we must move in new directions if we are to have a continuing ministry here. When this church was founded in 1851 it was with the intent that it would provide an outpost for the gospel in the newly expanding "Wild Wild West." The need has not changed. May we continue to adapt to meet this need and fulfill Christ's Great Commission.

Pastor Rich

Worship In The Park

*Sunday, August 26th
The Pavilion at Central Park*



1:00pm BBQ

2:00pm Games for all ages

3:00pm Worship

*To more comfortably enjoy our worship period
consider bringing your Lawn chairs,
recliners or blankets .*

Missions Update!

OGHS During the One Great Hour of Sharing offering period, you gave approximately (still trickling in) \$1120 for “Pigs for Kids” and \$930 for “STEP – Chiang Rai”. Those were our two selected projects. The “Pigs for Kids” collection will provide 18 female pigs to children of needy Haitian families, administered by American Baptist missionary Nzunga Mabudiga in Haiti. The “STEP – Chiang Rai” collection will provide all expenses for 2 ½ children for a year at the missionary-run school in Chiang Rai, Thailand.

Rayo de Luz In response to the needs of Rayo de Luz in Ensenada, you generously gave to support the identified needs of the church and Estela. As of this writing, \$1350 is being hand-delivered from us to Estela by our friends from Rancho el Refugio (the school we worked on for years). Thank you again.

Redwood Glen A makeup day or weekend and project for SCFBC-alone at Redwood Glen is still being wrangled out between RWG and us. Our calendars are pretty full, so it’s complicated. When I know the project and dates, I’ll let you all know. Hopefully volunteers will be available.



Storage Room Our renovation effort has finished the room which was used for construction-related items. It has been converted into a storage room for the Food Pantry, Operation Christmas Child, Seafarers’ ditty bags, jackets and cold weather items for CityTeams, Scott Lane, SF homeless outreach and Scott Lane school supplies, etc. If you have a desired name for the room, please let us know. Please submit your ideas on a registration card in the offering.

For additional activities requiring your help; see full story of the Mexico House Build project in this issue.

Names Submitted for the storage room:

1. Helping Hands & Healing Hearts
2. Gifts of Love
3. The Blessings Room
4. Sharing To All
5. Operations Outreach
6. The Lord Provides
7. The In/Out Room
8. Bundle of Joy
9. Bundle of Love
10. The Giving Room
11. Blessing Room
12. Outreach Depot
13. Community Closet
14. Samaritan’s Closet
15. Samaritan’s Workshop
16. Pastor Rich’s Closet
17. Arsenal Room
18. A to Z Room

Thank you all for your support of our mission outreach efforts.

Jim Garvey, Deacon of Missions (garveyjim@sbcglobal.net, 408-250-4040)

Maturity

Wake Up and Smell the Sulfur!

I keep thinking about that the real danger faced by followers of Christ is not blatant sin and temptation, but little choices and compromises we make daily. We reassure ourselves that we aren't as sinful as other people, and while we slowly veer away from Jesus without even realizing it.

In *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis, senior demon Screwtape congratulates his nephew Wormwood that his young "patient" (a Christian) has started hanging out with new intellectual, worldly friends and is fitting in quite well in their circle. But he warns Wormwood not to move too fast, lest the man wake up to the way he has wandered away from the Enemy (God). Screwtape continues:

For this reason I am almost glad to hear that he is still a churchgoer and a communicant. I know there are dangers in this; but anything is better than that he should realize the break he has made with the first months of his Christian life. As long as he retains externally the habits of a Christian he can still be made to think of himself as one who has adopted a few new friends and amusements but whose spiritual state is much the same as it was six weeks ago.

Screwtape notes that a patient might only have a hazy uneasiness about how they've been doing lately, instead of a clear understanding of sin of which he can repent. In fact, when we have this vague sense of guilt, the last thing we want to do is pray. Or go to church. Or read the Bible. Or anything else that causes us to focus on God. Guilt isn't comfortable at all.

Is SCFBC on the wrong path?

Honestly, I am afraid not only for myself, but for my church. There's a pandemic of apathy in the church in America and even right here at SCFBC. I believe Satan would be delighted for our worship services to be filled with Christians doing their "duty" of coming to church, singing songs, and bowing their heads, all the while looking forward to getting back to their lives and activities. While this indifference has become so common that it seems normal, we don't have to give in to it, or take it lying down!

What can we do?

The only way to determine our true state of spiritual health is by unreservedly asking the Holy Spirit to show us anything we as individuals need to change (see Psalm 139). We need to admit that those little compromises are sin, and let ourselves feel the full weight of how we have hurt God and ourselves. We need to ask God to forgive us. He doesn't expect us to fix things on our own—he longs to help us. We as a congregation also need to acknowledge where we've veered off course. We cannot blame our attitude on the music style, or the preaching, or the time of day, or anything else—we have to step up and take responsibility for our own part. By leaning on the Holy Spirit, we will experience peace and pleasure like we've nothing we've ever known.

And the survey says...

In August, each of us will be asked to complete a survey about the state of things at SCFBC. This is one step in a major effort to make course corrections and determine if this church is functioning the way God desires. We want SCFBC to serve God and our community, and to be effective in sharing the saving message of Jesus with lost people all around us. (see Pastor Rich's article in this issue of *The Celebrate!*)

I pray that this process will not only help SCFBC to be spiritually healthy and vital, but that individuals will wake up to their own dangerous positions. Screwtape concludes, **"Indeed, the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."**

Jenny Gregg
Deacon of Maturity

(For more information on topics related to spiritual growth and maturity, check my blog at <http://fromheretomaturity.blogspot.com/>)

Youth News



Reflect High School Group

In July, we continued our series based on the subject of LOVE. Mary taught one week on answering without arguing, and then Andrew taught another week about sharing without pretending. We also went on our annual summer retreat, journeying to Mammoth Lakes for an extended weekend. Our guest speaker, Sean Krack, challenged us to examine our beliefs and own our faith, rather than continue to be spoon fed. We discussed difficult topics, and the group showed their maturity by respecting everyone's opinions. We also hiked from Devil Postpile to Rainbow Falls one day, and took the gondola to the top of Mammoth Mountain the next. A total of 26 people stayed in two condominiums for the weekend—extremely fun!



Element Jr. High Group

Element has been enjoying having group time at homes and parks in July. We had a water balloon night where we launched balloons at the leaders, ping pong night at Danijela's, and swim nights at Donald's and Ryan's house. We are studying parables right now and are finding a wealth of meaning in these simple

stories. We head to Clear Lake this weekend for our Summer retreat and will be boating around the lake and tent camping.

Committed

Our Sunday morning group meets at 9:15 a.m. in the youth room and is currently going through the book of Acts.

Youth Staff - *Danijela, Mary, Andrew, Fion, Kimberly, Jerry, Les, Matt*



Upcoming EVENTS

August 8th - Reflect Beach Day 10am - 10pm - \$10

August 18th - Element Big Buddy Day

August 22nd - Reflect Parent's Night 6:30pm

August 23rd - Element Parent's Night 6:30pm

Events at scfbc.org/element & scfbc.org/reflect



Mexico House Build



How are we going to do it

Our church is taking on a special project in September to build a small loft house for Mexican family in need. The 12x12 house has a loft for sleeping, secure doors and windows, and a propane stove. We will pre-build the house in our parking lot on **Saturday, September 1** with the help of four supervisors from Hands of Mercy. The house will then be panelized and driven to the Ensenada area where we will send a team on **September 27-30** to re-assemble the house on the land where the family currently lives.

The Family

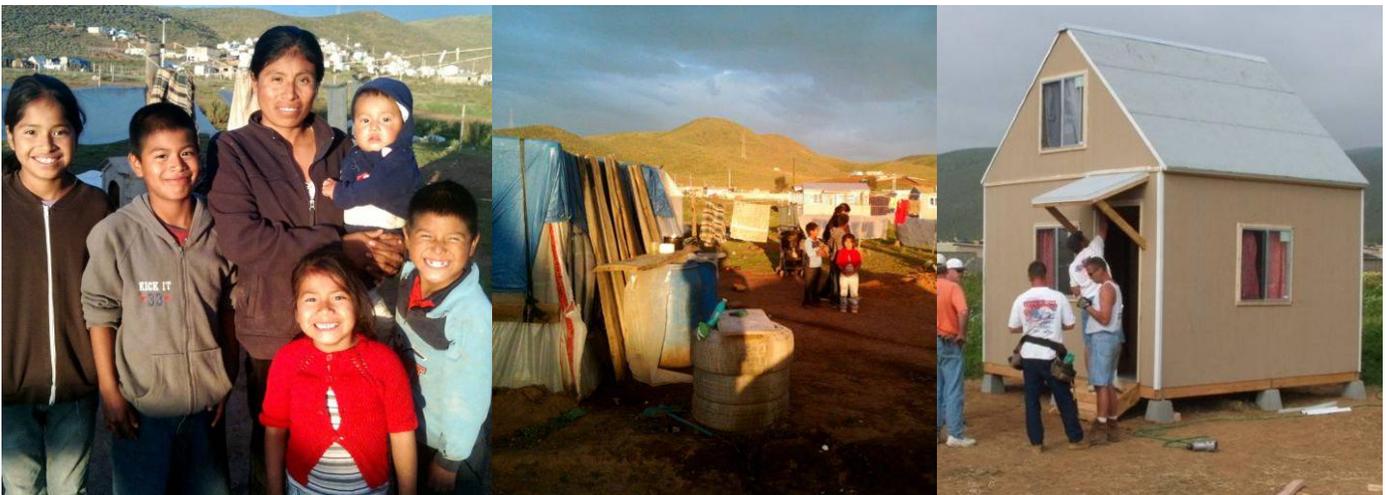
We are working with Pastor Oscar from the village of Ojos Negros who has a family that is in need of an improved shelter in which to live. Ojos Negros is an agricultural community located 45 minutes east of Ensenada and the population is made up from mostly an indigenous tribe who are discriminated against in Mexico. Many of the kids who attend the Life Bridge school (which our church helped build at Rancho el Refugio), come from this village.

Ways to get Involved

- Help with pre-build day, cutting wood, assembly, painting, moving materials, serving lunch, etc. All ages are welcome.
- Financially support this project. We need to raise **\$3,500 by September 1** for the materials and transportation costs. You can donate by placing checks or cash in the offering plate and designating it for "Mexico House".
- Purchase materials and sew four sets of drapes for the house.
- Host the four supervisors from Hands of Mercy who are driving up from Southern California on the night of **August 31**. We need two to three host homes.
- Help purchase and put together a care package of canned food and household items for the family.
- Help purchase mattresses and bedding material for the house.
- Be a part of the Mexico build team, leaving **Thursday, September 27th** morning and returning Sunday night **September 30**. Passport is required and \$50/person to cover gas and food.

Informational Meeting

Jerry Cintas will head this project and will lead an informational meeting for everyone who wants to get involved on **Sunday August 5** at 7 p.m. in the church parlor. The meeting starts after the 1st Sunday service. Contact Jerry at 408-390-4696 or jerry@scfbc.org for more information or to volunteer.



SCFBC Library

Book Nook: The books displayed in the lobby this month relate to the sermon series and include some of the previous years' books and DVDs from the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit. We also have good summer reads for all ages—if you can't find what you are looking for in the lobby, there are plenty more in the library!

Library Wish List: We are looking for several paperback editions to replace old or missing copies. Before we purchase new ones, we thought we would ask donations of the following in paperback: Please put them in the red bin in the lobby. Thank you!

- *Activate* by Searcy and Thomas
- *Ben Hur, A Tale of the Christ* by Lew Wallace
- *Christy* by Catherine Marshall
- *Disciples Are Made not Born* by Walter Henrichsen
- *How to be Born Again* by Billy Graham
- *Knowing God's Secrets* (2011 copy) by John Hunter
- *The Last Days* (#2 in a series) by Joel Rosenberg
- *The Nazarene* by Sholem Asch
- *Sacred Rhythms* by Ruth Haley Barton
- any Christian LARGE PRINT book - we have a small collection we would like to expand.

We are hoping to get the DVD *Joni* by the Billy Graham organization (it is about Joni Eareckson Tada tragic accident) and a newer DVD, also called *Johnny*, but about something else.

Returning library materials: Please check your homes for two missing DVDs—*The Blind Side* and *Encounter*. Thank you for returning books and movies in a timely manner to the red box in the lobby. Many materials that have been borrowed for a while are being returned to the shelves and we are able to include them in the catalog database.

Upcoming materials: At the August 9-10 Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit, we will purchase the featured leadership books and DVDs and make them available for check-out soon after.

Please enjoy the materials from the library - happy reading and viewing from the Library Committee.

Library Purpose statement:

"The purpose of the Santa Clara First Baptist Church Library is to glorify God by providing resources in a variety of formats that uphold the mission of the church, strengthen and promote the spiritual growth and maturity of our congregation and leaders, and be a resource to the surrounding community."



Spotlight on the Nursery

The *SPEED*way Children's Ministry believes that children are never too young to learn about God's love. This is why each Sunday we have loving volunteers who use stories, crafts, snacks and games to teach our youngest (and most adorable) members about Jesus! Nursery Coordinator Mary Wong is currently putting together the activities and lessons for the next Nursery lesson series—"God Made the World". Each week the toddlers will do a craft based on the different days of Creation, and at the end of the series they will have books to take home and share with their parents!

The nursery is a safe and loving place for babies and toddlers to play, grow and learn. In order to be as effective as possible, we need more loving people to join the team. Nursery volunteers work on a rotating basis, so if you can assist in this way, please contact Mary Wong at mary@scfbc.org or stop by the nursery on Sunday. We also need volunteers to help "spruce up" the infant side of our nursery. When the nursery is full, the babies stay safe in their own special room, giving the toddlers the freedom to do what they do best—run! So if you can help out with redecorating the baby room, please let Mary know.

One more thing—stop by the nursery one of these Sundays to say *"thank you"* to our dedicated nursery volunteers. They do a wonderful job and many people never notice their service. Whether a young family chooses to return to a church is often based on the quality of care their child receives in the nursery. We are blessed to have such an amazing team serving here.

Some pictures from Summer Spectacular...



The "Toilet Hockey" teams arm themselves with toilet brushes as they prepare for Toilet Hockey battle.

Scott Lane Elementary School

Aluminum Can & Plastic Bottle Collection Drive

During the months of July and August, Peggy Shalloe is collecting aluminum cans and plastic soda/water bottles to support Scott Lane Elementary School. If you have bottles or cans to donate, please bring them to the church office Monday - Thursday between 8 a.m. and 5 pm or to room 24 on Sunday mornings. For more information contact Peggy at 408-410-8933 or Appey2many@att.net .



Rummage Sale to Benefit " Bethlehem "

This sale will be October 5 and 6. Please start saving your items for this special event that will help support Bethlehem! More information will be in the September *The Celebrate!*



Start gathering your items now for easy drop-off or pickup for this event!

Christmas At Sea 2012

It's time to help the men who crew the cargo ships coming into the Port of Oakland celebrate the real meaning of Christmas. We do this by giving them a small gift bag called a ditty bag filled with small items for their personal use. For some of them, it will be the only gift they receive on Christmas day. This month, we are collecting items for the ditty bags. If you can help, buy any of the items listed below, and drop them in the Seafarers' donation box in the lobby. Many thanks!

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Toothbrushes | Knitted caps |
| Toothpaste | Warm socks |
| Deodorant | Small games |
| Shaving cream | Hard wrapped candies |
| Razors | Pens and paper |
| Aftershave lotion | Small flashlights/w batteries |
| Hand lotion | Playing cards |
| Chap stick | |

Please give only new items. Medium size personal items. No trial sizes, please.

For additional information contact Virginia Newcomb at 408-266-1734.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

Mission Emphasis: Collect Seafarer Ditty bag items

- 1 - 10am White Cross-Rm 19-Virginia N. 266-1734
- 3-5 5pm Men's Camping Retreat - Jerry C. 615-1690
- 4 - 8:30am Diaconate Mtg-Lib- Barbara 739-2935
- 4 - 10:00am Prayer Quilt Ministry- Rm 19-Rhonda
- 5 - 12pm Fall Life Group Kick-off Lunch-Lib-Jenny G
- 5 - 6pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
- 5 - 7pm - Mexico Informational Meeting - Parlor - Jerry
- 8 - 6:30pm Baits/Turley Circle Potluck - Rusty's home
- 9 - 10am Prayer Quilt Ministry-Rm 19-Rhonda
- 9-10 -9-5pm **Global Leadership Summit Telecast** -Susi
- 11 - 8:30am-10am Men's Breakfast - Adam 230-6848
- 12 - 12:15pm - Mission/Schools Mtg - Lib - Jim G
- 14 - 1pm Bethell Circle
- 15 - 6pm CityTeam Outreach - Jonathan 813-2505
- 20 - **On-line assessment survey ends**
- 20 - 7:30p Finance Comm Mtg - Lib - Dan 892-8213
- 23 - 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch - Betty 244-5949
- 25 - 9-12noon Back to Basics-Parlor-Pastor Rich
- 25 - 10am Manna food prep - Kitchen
- 26 - 1pm - 4pm **Worship in the Park** - Central Park
- 27 - *September Celebrate articles due to Dave*

Up-coming

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - 8am Mexico House Build - Sanctuary parking lot
- 1 - 8:30am Sept Diaconate Mtg- Lib - Barbara
- 1 - 10am Prayer Quilt Ministry - Rm 19 - Rhonda
- 2 - 6pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
- 3 - **Labor Day Holiday - Office Closed**
- 5 - 10am White Cross - Rm 19- Virginia N.
- 6 - 10am Prayer Quilt Ministry-Rm 19-Rhonda
- 7-9 Assessment Meetings and Report w/Dr. W Hoyt
- 8 - 8:30am Men's Breakfast-Adam 230-6848
- 9 - 12noon Lunch then GHC Assessment Report
- 11- 1:00pm Bethell Circle -
- 12 - 12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle -
- 16 - 12:15pm - Mission/Schools Mtg. - Lib - Jim G
- 17 - 7:00pm Finance Comm Mtg - Lib - Dan 892-8213
- 19- 6pm CityTeam Outreach - Jonathan 813-2505
- 21-22 Youth Boardwalk Overnighter - Jerry 615-1690
- 23 - Scott Lane Jacket/Scholarship drive begins
- 24- *October Celebrate articles due to Dave*
- 27- 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch - Betty 244-5949
- 27- **30** - Mexico House Building Trip

OCTOBER

Mission Emphasis: World Missions

- 3 - 10am White Cross - Lobby - Virginia N. 266-1734
- 3-4- 10am Rummage Sale set up-FH-Maxine 241-7567
- 5-6 - Rummage Sale - FH - Maxine 241-7567
- 6 - 8:30am Diaconate Mtg - Lib- Barbara C. 739-2935
- 6 - 10am Prayer Quilt Ministry-Rm 19-Rhonda 246-2242
- 7 - 6pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
- 9 - 1:00pm Bethell Circle
- 10 - 12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle - Parlor
- 11- 10am Prayer Quilt Ministry - Rm 19 - Rhonda
- 12-14 - Youth Conference
- 13 - 8:30am Men's Breakfast - Kit - Adam 230-6848
- 13 - 9:30am All church work day - Mike 691-1441
- 14 - 9am Back to Basics #1 - Pastor's office
- 14 - 12:15pm Mission/Schools Comm Mtg-Lib- Jim G
- 15- 7pm Finance Comm Mtg - Lib - Dan 892-8213
- 17 - 6pm CityTeam Outreach - Jonathan 813-2505
- 21 - 9am Back to Basics #2 - Pastors office
- 21 - Begin SF Cold Weather Gear Collections
- 22 - *November Celebrate articles due to Dave*
- 25 - 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch - Betty 244-5949
- 26 - 11:30-3:30pm Tentative Scott Lane Event - Kim
- 27 - 8am Oakland Seafarer's Ditty Bag packing
- 28 - 9am Back to Basics #3 - Pastors office
- 31- 6pm Trunk or Treat



Property Corner



Summer is a great time here at SCFBC... This past month our property received some much needed “tender loving care” from so many of our church family and volunteers. It was so wonderful to see so many “helper’s” come out and give of their time and talents.

I would like to thank the following people who helped contribute to a “great” church work day:

Luba Bodrouk:	General cleaning & dusting
Larry Van Groningen :	Tree and shrub trimming
David Lageschulte:	Curtain wall & door locks lubed throughout our campus
Larry Trigg:	Toilet repair in children’s restroom.
Peggy Shalloe:	Contact paper installed in the Ministry Room
Jerry Cintas:	Church banner secured, lights replaced throughout our campus
Tom Caldwell:	Fence staining project
John Pusateri:	Fence staining, sweeping & cleaning
Karen Pusateri:	Sweeping & cleaning
Steve McLenegan:	Fence staining
Liz Poche:	General cleaning & dusting
Jerri Cooper:	Library projects
Donald Clampett:	Lights changed
Alexis Paget:	General cleaning, lights changed

Thank you for your continued support and hard work to help keep our facilities and campus looking “good in the neighborhood”.

Thank you,

Michael Depew
Property Deacon

Notice

Please help us to keep the carpets clean; when beverages or food is spilled please make sure to clean it up as quickly as you can or let church staff or Property Deacon - Michael Depew know. Last week the carpets were professionally cleaned in five areas: The Parlor, Lobby, Ladies room, Fellowship Hall and Fireside room costing \$925.00. So please be attentive to help reduce cleaning cycles for the carpets.



Santa Clara First Baptist

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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.

See Matthew 28:19, 20

August Birthdays

2 nd	Amber Harrell	13 th	Karen Pusateri
2 nd	Ashley Harrell	15 th	Jenny Gregg
5 th	Mark Reiley	16 th	Larry Van Groningen
8 th	Greg Robbins	18 th	Betty Hastings
10 th	Harvey Fong	19 th	Gail Bock
11 th	Jason Hammar	20 th	Susi Reaves
11 th	Dottie Haas	21 st	Chrysta Rangel
11 th	Jim Powell	23 rd	Ruth Porspakka
12 th	Joe Lasher	25 th	Wilma Wright
12 th	Ken Harrell	25 th	Rusty Webber
13 th	Bill Wright	27 th	Sally Youngs
13 th	Ken Rangel	28 th	Helen Rodolari

August Anniversaries

10 th	Andrew & Mary Wong
11 th	Dave & Kim Wilson
12 th	Len & Bev Walz