

The Celebrate

December 2, 2012

Christmas Eve



Candlelight Family Service 6:00PM

Come celebrate the birth of Jesus at our Christmas Eve Service December 24 at 6:00pm. This worship gathering will be a time of reflection and gratitude with familiar carols, Scripture readings, and candlelight.

Nursery care provided.

Moving Forward...



The church voted in October to accept Prescriptions 1- 4 from Dr. Hoyt. Prescription 5 was to vote on these Prescriptions. Prescription 6 called for the diaconate to approve the church having a transitional pastor and deciding whether or not Pastor Rich would be the transitional pastor. As I reported at the Quarterly Family Gathering, the diaconate voted unanimously to have Pastor Rich serve as the transitional pastor. The Diaconate approved a contract which still needs to be signed by Dr. Hoyt, Pastor Richard and me, representing the church. We will be meeting with Dr. Hoyt on December 8th to consider our next steps as we are Moving Forward.

There seems to have been some misunderstanding on the role Pastor Rich will play as the transitional pastor at SCFBC. He will continue to serve as senior pastor with all the responsibilities of that position. In addition he will work with the deacons, other leaders, and church members to fulfill the four prescriptions given to us by Dr. Hoyt. By fulfilling these prescriptions our church is expected to be more attractive to prospective pastors. The current plan calls for Pastor Rich to retire by the fall of 2015. If you have any questions, please call me at 408-739-2935 or send me an email at bchicks55@comcast.net.

Please be praying for Pastor Rich, for the church leaders and also how you can help SCFBC in fulfilling the prescriptions.

Barbara Chicks, Board Chairperson

Barbara has brought us up to date regarding our current progress. Note that we are calling this entire process of fulfilling Dr. Hoyt's prescriptions "**MOVING FORWARD.**" We are moving forward with the direction we believe God has given to SCFBC to become a Great Commission church.

But, **activities are not enough.** In fact simply adding activities alone will prove to be insufficient if we wish to become the church God wants us to be. The reason for this is that something deeper must change. That something deeper is our values. Without changed values that truly reflect the heart of God, nothing permanent will be altered here. There may be a flurry of activity for a time, but then we will fall back into old habits which got us here in the first place.

What do we as a church really value? We can discover what we value by looking at what we do, where we spend our money, and how we use our time and energies. For years we have let our passion for the unsaved and unchurched languish. We haven't spent the money, invested our time or utilized our energies in seeking to introduce others to Jesus and shepherd them into our church family. This is what must change first.

Let God speak to you about your heart, your values. Ask Him to fill you with His heart for those on the outside looking in. Find a new inner motivation to share the Gospel with your unsaved family, friends, coworkers and neighbors, not because you've been told you should but because you have a burning desire to do so.

Pastor Rich

Keep on Praying

Over Thanksgiving dinner, my uncle and I were talking about our churches. He asked me what kind of budget we have for evangelism, as he shared that their church was having financial troubles with so many people being laid off. Therefore, they had no evangelism budget. I told him that while we had an evangelism budget, the bulk of evangelism is done without any money at all!

It doesn't take any money to build a relationship with your neighbor and invite him to church. It doesn't take any money to build a relationship with the parents of your teenager's friends and pray for them. The most effective displays of evangelism don't take a large budget, but they do require a big passion for Christ and a giant heart for those who don't yet know Him.

Over the past few months, you have been encouraged to pray for people in your life who do not yet know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. As we seek to be a church that reaches hearts for Christ, our goal is that each of us would have three people or families that we are in prayer over. Now that we are entering into the Christmas Season, we have a wonderful opportunity to talk to others about Jesus.

I've always felt that people are more spiritually open this time of year. So as you continue to pray over the people God has put into your life, be aware of openings the Spirit is giving you – openings to talk about Jesus, openings to pray with the person, openings to invite someone to the Christmas Eve service – any opening at all!

As you build these relationships and pray over the people God has put on your heart, keep in mind the upcoming events you can invite them to:

Bethlehem – December 6-10 - 6:30-9:00pm
Christmas Eve Service – December 24 at 6:00pm - Nursery care provided

“Who is This Man?” teaching series – January 6-February 10 - Sundays at 10:30am

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate many things. We celebrate God's love for us in sending His Son. We celebrate the presence of Jesus here with us on earth, teaching us about the Father. We celebrate the birth of our Savior. We also celebrate the Lord's love for ALL people, even those who don't yet accept that love. So keep on praying! Keep praying and be filled with anticipation about how the Spirit will answer.

Blessings,
Pastor Jenny



Happy Birthday Jesus!

Now that December is here, *SPEEDway* has kicked into high gear for Christmas. There is no need to remind the kids that Christmas is coming. However, it is important to always take the time to remind the children (and ourselves) what Christmas is really all about - Jesus! Jesus is the reason for every joy we have, and His love is the most amazing gift we will ever receive. All the age groups will be learning about the birth of our Savior this month.

Because many families travel during the Christmas holiday, there will be **no Sunday School on December 23 and 30th**. Preschool and Elementary age kids will start in the service with their families on December 23rd, and then will head over to their classes when dismissed. On December 30th, the Preschool and Elementary kids will all meet in the Fellowship Hall during worship.

The Christmas Eve service is at 6:00pm on December 24th. This is a family service, with Nursery care being Provided for children under 3 years of age. We hope to see you and your family there. Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jenny



Book Nook and Library Corner

New Experimental “Children’s Book Nook” - For the month of December there will be a Children’s Book Nook in the *SPEED*way registration area for children and parents to check out books. Maybe you can start a new tradition... or have new books to read to each other by checking out the books there. It is the same self-check out method. Just record the date, your name and the last four numbers of the bar code tag on the check-out page. Please take advantage of this as soon as possible - we want to see if it will work and get more books in the hands of readers.

Website access: Please keep this set of instructions by your computer: Just a reminder that you can look at the contents of the library from your home computer. Go onto the **www.scfbc.org website**. Then go to the *Resource tab*; with the cursor over it a drop down menu will appear. **Click on Church Library**, then **click on on-line catalogue here** and choose Title, Author or Subject from the drop down menu in first box, then in the second box enter the name of the title or author or subject of the material you are looking for, then **click Search**.

- If the material is in the library it will show how many copies are available and give a call number to help you locate the item on the shelves. An added feature to some of the materials is the *Google Preview* tab, when you click on that, you will get a brief description of the material and possibly even reviews from previous users.
- If the material is not in the library a note will appear saying *Sorry, no records found*.
- If it is something you think the library should carry, please put a note on the back of your registration card any Sunday and we will try and find it or you can get one and donate it to the library.

Go ahead, give it a try from your home computer; it works from any place where you have internet access.

Book Nook - The books displayed this month coordinate with the Pastor’s sermon series and will also include many fun Christmas DVD’s - check some out and have a fun-filled family night with popcorn.

Returning library materials: Thank you for returning materials in a timely manner to the red box in the Lobby so that others can enjoy the books and movies, too!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Library Committee - Next month we will be reviewing and presenting new DVD’s for check-out.

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.”

Missions Survey Results

These are the results from the Missions Questionnaire completed by 104 people during the worship service on 10/28/2012. The results do not include most of the worship band, those serving in the A/V booth and childrens' ministry, as well as those not present that Sunday who also contribute and participate in missions. That was also the case during last year's survey.

I have supported mission outreach by (put a √ in each box that applies)

	Donating goods or funds	Actively par- ticipating
Bethlehem	42	60
Operation Christmas Child	29	16
Christmas at Sea (Mariners)	27	11
White Cross	11	5
School supplies for Scott Lane Elementary	41	1----
Scott Lane assistance (e.g. SOAR support, Carnival)	11	8
"Beautiful Day"	2	3
Worship in the Park	17	39
OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing)	18	----
AFC (America for Christ)	14	----
WMO (World Mission Offering)	30	----
Sacred Heart	2	1
EHC (Emergency Housing Consortium)	8	4
CIC (Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy)	6	1
City Team	13	2
Missionaries (Lauren Bethel, Chapmans, Baits)	24	2----
Rancho el Refugio	18	11
Limon school/church (Costa Rica)	9	1
Mexico mission trips (VBS, House Build)	31	17
Redwood Glen Christian Camp	11	11
Hosting church visitors overnight	1	3
Feeding the homeless	12	7
Providing shelter for the homeless	4	5
<u>Please add your own</u> – over 27 additional causes added		
Surveys with nothing checked = 9		

I have served (select one which you feel describes your level of activity)

- 6 Not at all 17 didn't answer
- 43 Too little
- 29 Enough
- 3 More than enough
- 6 I don't have any more to give

I serve others:

- 28 primarily within SCFBC 13 didn't answer
- 13 primarily outside SCFBC
- 50 mix of both

I would gladly support missions more, except (select all that apply)

- 34 I don't have enough money 14 didn't answer
- 7 My health doesn't permit it
- 5 My family doesn't approve
- 22 I don't have the time
- 10 I haven't come across one which interests me
- 30 I think I provide the right level of support

I only give to "Missions" when there's a disaster which needs recovery support (money, blankets, clothes, ...).

- 16 True 80 False 3 didn't answer

I have invited friends or "un-churched" to (select all that apply)

- 54 Services
- 78 Bethlehem
- 17 Life Groups
- 21 Journey to the Cross
- 19 Halloween outreach (Hallelujah Night/Trunk or Treat)
- 24 Participate in a mission or outreach
- 7 None

I am a regular participant in a Life Group.

- 59 True 38 False 7 didn't answer

I primarily participate in missions in which my life group participates.

- 24 True 34 False 38 Not applicable 8 didn't answer

I break out funds in my offering with some of my offering directed to "Missions".

- 49 True 47 False 8 didn't answer

I normally give at least 1/10th of my offering to "Missions".

- 37 True 61 False 6 didn't answer

I try to reach the world for Christ by (select all that apply)

- 82 Praying for my un-churched family, friends and neighbors
- 34 Talking to the un-churched about Christ and what I believe
- 75 Walking the walk consciously, being aware of being seen as a Christian
- 2 didn't answer

Overall, the results are about the same as the 2011 survey showed. Thank you all for your time and effort. We're going to have to work at getting 65% involvement in Life Groups, getting 10% of giving to Missions, and getting more involved in hands-on support of mission outreach activities. I recognize that a strong response was received for "I don't have the time"; but, we all (me included) need to pray and make time. God's kingdom is worth it. He deserves our best efforts. Bethlehem is a good place to start.

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

Youth News

Reflect High School Group

In November, we continued our series on the book of Hosea. In this study, we are learning how the prophecy of Hosea applied to the Israelites, but also predicted the coming of Christ. At the end of October, we also took a Wednesday night out and crossed the street to help clean up the Santa Clara High School campus. It was awesome seeing our youth serve the community in this way. We are looking forward to participating in Bethlehem this year in our annual role of the Wise Men's entourage.

The Element Jr. High Group

The Jr Highers had a great time at the Spaghetti Dinner and did really well at waiting on the tables of guests. We also joined the High School group for our annual Corn Maze trip to Del Osso Farms. It was a blast going through the maze and going in the haunted house and other activities at the farm. We finished up our Fruit of the Spirit lessons and are planning a new series for January after winter break.

Committed

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

Raising Teens

Our November 'Raising Teens' workshop presented a wonderful opportunity for parents to share with each other their concerns, fears and joys of raising teens. The parents left with great information and resources on how to better communicate with their teenagers.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Results

On Saturday, November 3rd we held our annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser to raise money to send our kids to snow camp in January. We raised well over \$1400, enough to allow all of the youth who served to get a discount of \$50 off of their camp fees.

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

Upcoming EVENTS

Dec 5th - 10th - Bethlehem Rehearsal and Event

Dec 19th - Reflect Christmas Party

Dec 20th - Element Christmas Party

Dec 27th - Combined Ice Skating

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



Freedom Summit

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV)



Join the Bay Area fight against human trafficking! Register now for this Bay Area Anti-trafficking Coalition (BAATC) sponsored conference--learn how to raise community awareness, identify trafficking victims, and advocate for change through policy and consumer choices.

The Freedom Summit is a two-day biennial conference that serves as a catalytic event to bring Bay Area abolitionists, communities and organizations together around the issue of Human Trafficking.

An estimated 27 million people are slaves today, more than during 400 years of the transatlantic slave trade. The sale of human beings is the third largest illicit trade following drugs and weapons, but is growing faster than both of these. An estimated 50% of the victims are children and 80% are women - even in California.

An opportunity to learn more about Human Trafficking

When:	<i>Friday and Saturday, January 25-26, 2013</i>
Where:	<i>Harbor Light Church, Fremont, CA</i>
Sponsor:	<i>Bay Area Anti-trafficking Coalition (BAATC.org)</i>
Register or volunteer :	<i>www.freedom-summit.org</i>
	<i>\$95 general admission and \$50 for students</i>

- Engage with local heroes to be equipped and mobilized to fight human trafficking
- Building Bay Area Response to Human Trafficking.
- Jonathan Fung will be presenting and discussing “Hark”

Speakers

- Justin Dillon, Founder and CEO, Slavery Footprint.
- Nathan George, Founder, Trade as One.
- Jaida Im, Founder and Executive Director, Freedom House
- Sean Litton, Sr. Vice President of Field Operations, International Justice Mission.
- Bradley Myles, Executive Director, Polaris Project

Directions: Harbor Light Church, 4760 Thornton Ave., Fremont, CA (NB Hwy 880, R/Thornton, go about 5 blocks, R/church parking lot)

Don't Wait Until January to Blow the Dust Off!

(This article was published last month but worth a 2nd read)

If someone asked you right now to see your Bible, would you have to think about where it might be? Would quite a few of the crisp, clean pages stick together? Or maybe your Bible is proudly well-worn and highlighted in a rainbow of colors- but would you have to quickly wipe the dust off of it before you let anyone see it? Fear not! If we are honest, we have all been there (or are there now).

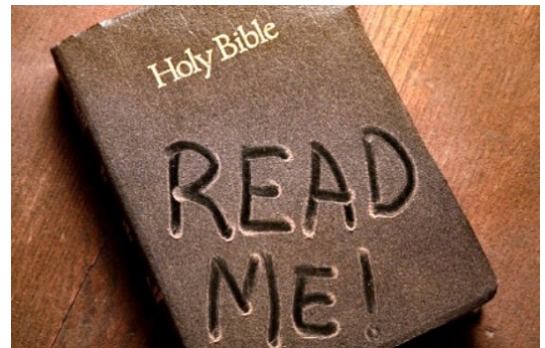
I always groan, though, when leaders tell me to read my Bible more, **more isn't always better!** If I just slog my way robotically through Genesis on my way to Revelation while I am half asleep or my mind is really on other things, it doesn't help me, and it certainly doesn't do much for God. There are ways to make your Bible encounters the best part of your day (honest!).

Practical Ways to Jumpstart Your Bible Encounters

Everyone's experience may be different, but there are a few things that I have noticed over the years about reading the Bible: Getting started is the hardest part - it gets easier once you get going into a routine.

Having a plan helps enormously - the "flip-open-the-Bible-and-read-whatever-you-find" method may work occasionally, but is pretty unreliable (and you are likely to give up).

Using some creative practices for enhancing your time in God's word amplifies the experience.



A Do-able Daily Reading Plan

The plan that changed my spiritual life was years ago when I bought and used the *One Year Bible*. Because the daily readings are divided into manageable chunks (much smaller than those required for a 90-day plan), I was able to keep it up. And because each reading includes both Old and New Testament, plus a little from Psalms and Proverbs, there is always interesting parts to balance the difficult parts.

Now the *One Year Bible* plan is offered free online (<http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com/>). What makes this beautiful is that you can set whatever start date you like (how about today?!), and whatever version you like. There are plenty of reading plans out there, but don't spend all your time "shopping for a plan" or you'll never getting to the actual reading! I do highly recommend this one if you want to give it a try.

Memorize Scripture!

Break out your 3x5s and make some flashcards! God speaks most often through scripture, so the more scripture you know the more He will be able to communicate to you! Knowing key passages also allows you to share the gospel with others, and to defend your faith when necessary. And before you say, "I'm not good at memorizing," remember that like any exercise, the more you do it, the easier it gets. (and it's good for the brain, too!).

First Things First...

In our enthusiasm to serve God and fulfill the solutions that have been prescribed for SCFBC, it's imperative that we don't rush out impulsively like Peter slashing off a man's ear in an effort to "save" Jesus from arrest. As counter intuitive as it sounds, we know that God wants us to come to Him, and spend time listening to Him through His word - the Bible. Only then can He direct our course of action.

We cannot make disciples unless we are disciples. And one of the defining characteristics of a disciple is one who spends time with Jesus, listening to Him, and getting to know Him. That, my brothers and sisters, is our number one prescription!

Jenny Gregg, Deacon of Maturity

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

Mission Emphases:

- **Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering**
- **Bethlehem Community Outreach**
- **Cold Weather Clothing Drive - SJ CityTeam**

1 – 8:30am - Diaconate Mtg - Library
1 – 10:00am - Bethlehem Costume Fitting - Bldg B
2 – 12:00pm - Bethlehem Volunteer Lunch - FH
2 – 1:00pm - Bethlehem Costume Fitting - Bldg B
2 – 6:00pm - 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
4-5 – 7:00pm - Bethlehem Rehearsals
6-10 – 6:30-9:00pm - Bethlehem
9 – 12:15pm - Mission/Schools Mtg - Library
10 – 11:30am - Bethell Circle Christmas Lunch
11 – Bethlehem clean-up all week
12 – 1:00pm - Baits/Turley Circle - Home Town Buffet
15 – 9:00am - Bethlehem Saturday cleanups begin
17 – 7:00pm - Finance Committee Mtg - Library
17 – *January Celebrate articles due to Dave*
19 – 6:00pm - CityTeam Outreach Chapel/cold weather gear distribution
20 – 11:30am - SR/BD Lunch Bunch - Home Town Buffet
24 – 6:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25 – **Merry Christmas – Office Closed**

JANUARY 2013

1 – **New Year's Day Holiday– Office Closed**
1 - LAN Gathering—Cintas' home
2 – 10:00am - White Cross - Room 19
5 – 10:00am - Prayer Quilting - Room 19
6 – 6:00pm - 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
8 – 1:00pm - Bethell Circle
9 – 12:30pm - Baits/Turley Circle - Parlor
10 – 10:00am - Prayer Quilting - Room 19
11-13– Leaders/Diaconate Retreat - Redwood Glen
11-13 – JH Element Winter Retreat
12 – 8:30am - Men's Breakfast - FH
16 – 6:00pm - CityTeam Shelter Outreach
17 – 11:30am - SR/BD Lunch Bunch
20 – 12:15pm - Mission/Schools Mtg - Library
21 – *February Celebrate articles due to Dave*
21 –**Martin Luther King Holiday –Office Closed**
21 – 7:00pm - Finance Committee Mtg - Library
25-27 – HS Reflect Winter Retreat
25-26 - Freedom Summit - Fremont, CA
31 – *Diaconate Annual Reports due to Dave*

FEBRUARY

2 – 8:30am - Diaconate Mtg - Library
2– 10:00am - Prayer Quilt Ministry - Room 19
3 – 6:00pm - 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
6 – 10:00am - White Cross - Room 19
7 – 10:00am - Prayer Quilt Ministry - Room 19
9 – 8:30am - Men's Breakfast - FH
9 – 10:00am - Manna prep - kitchen
10 – Scout Sunday
10 – 12:00pm - Quarterly Family Gathering
12– 1:00pm - Bethell Circle
13 – 12:30pm - Baits/Turley Circle - Parlor
17 – 12:15pm - Mission/Schools Mtg - Library
18 – **President's Day Holiday – Office Closed**
18 – 7:00pm - Finance Mtg - Library
18 – *March Celebrate articles due to Dave*
20 – 6:00pm - CityTeam Outreach
21 – 11:30am - SR/BD Lunch Bunch





Santa Clara First Baptist

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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

December

Birthdays

2 nd	George Garcia
5 th	Michael Reiley
8 th	Matt Stephens
8 th	Unice Chang
10 th	Jim Lovelace
12 th	Wendy Gregg
13 th	Dee Opstedal
14 th	Pat Graham
18 th	Irmgard Ciarlo
19 th	David Turley - Japan Missionary
21 st	Vera Masters
21 st	Alaina Hawkins
22 nd	Steve McLenegan
23 rd	Marlene Goldman