

# *The Celebrate!*

*Santa Clara First Baptist Church*

*January 2013*

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## *Life Groups*

*Celebrate friendships!*

*Celebrate spiritual growth!*

*Celebrate life together!*

Sign-ups for the  
Winter/Spring  
trimester begin  
Sunday, January 6

# Time for Spiritual Spring Cleaning?



Right after the holidays is one of my favorite times for cleaning out the junk in my closets and garage. For many people, the New Year also presents a perfect opportunity for cleaning out personal bad habits and making resolutions for better living. Some of the most common resolutions include losing weight—fixing finances—exercising and eating right—quitting smoking—spending more time with family—getting organized...

Christians like to make spiritual resolutions too—read the Bible more—pray more—go to church—volunteer...Usually, though, almost all of these admittedly noble resolutions are doomed to fail. Failure is even more likely when we imagine that something miraculous happens between December 31 and January 1.

To make real, lasting change, perhaps the most important question (especially for followers of Christ) is WHY do we want to make these changes? In the book, *Sacred Rhythms*, Ruth Haley Barton puts it this way:

Christian tradition has a name for the structure that enables us to say yes to the process of spiritual transformation day in and day out. It is called *a rule of life*. A rule of life seeks to respond to two questions: Who do I want to be? How do I want to live? Actually, it might be more accurate to say that a rule of life seeks to address the interplay between these two questions: *How do I want to live so I can be who I want to be?*

## Create a rule of life

St. Benedict was the first to create and define a “rule of life”—or intentional way of living in order to facilitate spiritual growth and relationship with God. Benedict’s rule of life for his community of monks centered on three elements—prayer, study and work.

Barton points out that exploring and practicing a variety of spiritual disciplines takes time and determination. Discovering how various disciplines impact and fit into our lives will not happen overnight (and certainly not in one holiday season). However, learning to live here and now in the kingdom of God is the whole reason Jesus came.

## How does this impact our church?

When Jesus began his ministry, and there was SO much work to do, and so many people who needed him, Mark records how Jesus made his relationship with the Father his top priority (Mark 1:35-39), making time spent with the Father the foundation for his day and his ministry. It is really easy to get excited about the wonderful things that God is doing at SCFBC. However, we have to remember that God wants us individually first—not the work we do for him. **So when it comes to cleaning out our cluttered schedules, making time and space for God alone must come first—everything else will flow from that.**

“Steep your life in God—reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.”

*How do I want to live so I can be who I want to be?*—Maybe our only resolution for 2013 should be to address this question prayerfully and thoughtfully. May God bless you with a deeper sense of his present kingdom this year!

Jenny Gregg

Deacon of Maturity

For more information: <http://fromheretomaturity.blogspot.com/>

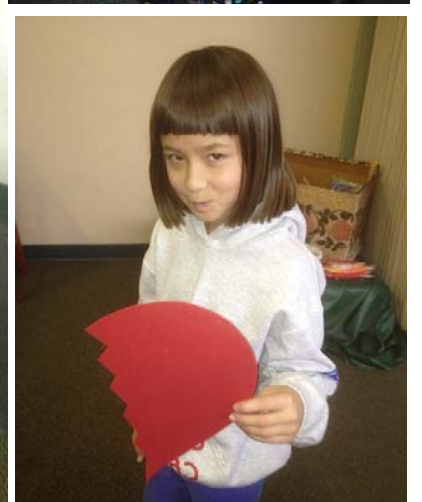




## 5 Reasons Why Sunday School is Stupendous

Sunday School is from 9:00-10:15a.m. every Sunday. You probably already know how much the children enjoy their amazing time at the SPEEDway. But if your child is only coming to the worship hour, they're missing out on a whole lot of awesomeness! So here are some reasons to give Sunday School a try in 2013:

1. Sunday School classes are broken up into smaller age groups, so kids can ask more questions.
2. Sunday School classes offer focused discipleship to help kids grow in their knowledge of Jesus.
3. Amazing Sunday School teachers. Seriously. They're gifted when it comes to teaching children.
4. Sunday School classes for your children, mean you're free to attend a class too! There are great options for adults on Sunday mornings.
5. Coming to Sunday School is the easiest step you can take towards helping you and your child grow





# Youth News

## Reflect High School Group

In December, 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. Various members of our group played roles in our annual Bethlehem performance, ranging from shepherds to wise men entourage members to townspeople. It was wonderful to see our high school students serve in such a variety of ways!

## The Element Jr. High Group

Our Jr. Highers stepped up and helped a lot with Bethlehem this year. How awesome to see our whole youth group have such a huge part in the program! As usual, our tradition is to play hide and seek on the Bethlehem set on the Thursday after the program is over and the kids look forward to hiding in that special place that they have been eyeing during the show.

After the show, Jerry led a lesson on the Christmas story and we read the biblical accounts of Jesus' birth and compared them to Bethlehem. The kids were confused that there was no Bethlehem "lady at the well" story in the Bible!

## Committed

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



### Upcoming EVENTS

Jan 11th - 13th - Element Snow Camp

Jan 25th - 27th - Reflect Snow Camp

Events at [scfbc.org/element](http://scfbc.org/element) & [scfbc.org/reflect](http://scfbc.org/reflect)

# *Membership Department*

**Next Quarterly Family Gathering:** The next Quarterly Family Gathering after morning worship is on February 10th when the 2012 Annual Report will be presented. And of course, a delicious lunch will be served!

**On-going Prayer Chain:** Do you want to be added to the SCFBC email prayer chain? E-mail Trudy Kroll at [krollgirls@sbcglobal.net](mailto:krollgirls@sbcglobal.net) and ask her to be added to the email prayer chain for future requests or if you have a request you want prayer for. You can also do this by going to the website and sending in your request via email or contact Dave, Pastor Rich or Pastor Jenny in the office. Trudy coordinates the email prayer chain sending it to a list of nearly 100 homes so many can pray also. One of those people picks up the request and starts a telephone prayer chain with another short list of households.

**Are you considering baptism or membership at Santa Clara First Baptist Church (SCFBC)?** If you want to know more about it, just ask Pastor Rich or Pastor Jenny how you can do this. Membership classes called “Back to Basics” will be held two or three times during 2013 - dates and times to be determined. Topics covered let you know more about making a commitment to the church.

**Sermons, *The Celebrate!* monthly newsletter, the weekly bulletin and the church calendar:** These can be seen or heard on the SCFBC website at [www.scfbc.org](http://www.scfbc.org).

**Food Pantry:** Non-perishable food items are accepted from contributors and redistribute it to those in need. It is available in two-bag distribution to people who ask for a food donation at the office. The bags are prepared and there are six sets available at all times. Please let people know that food bags can be picked up the last week of the month - for people who attend church or for your friends in need also. About 150 food bags are given away annually and from 4-6 families were helped last Thanksgiving and Christmas with holiday dinner “starter kits”.

**Fellowship Fund:** You can either donate to this fund by indicating “Fellowship Fund” on your giving envelope or if needed - ask for funds from it. This fund helps people in their hour of need for emergency or unexpected bills or expenses.— please make your request through either Pastor Rich or Pastor Jenny. Thanks to your generous giving, this year ten families were helped with \$7,323 from the fund.

**Good Samaritans:** Maxine Darknell coordinates a group of people who help others with little chores that you may not be able to handle for a variety of reasons. Could be food preparation, giving rides for medical appointments, yard work - things like that. Call Maxine if you want help or if you want to be available to help people with chores like this. Sometimes we just can’t do it all alone.

**Visitation:** What a blessing it is when Life Group members or individuals visit or help others recovering from illnesses. We are here to extend a hand of comfort and prayer to each other.

**Thank you** - I’ve learned a lot over the years serving as a Membership Deacon. Thank you for the experience. I just had a meeting with Denise Stephens, the new 2013 SCFBC Membership Deacon. She is looking forward to serving the church in this capacity.

Have a blessed New Year!

*Jerri Cooper*

*Former Deacon of Membership*

# *Property Corner*

## Happy New Year Everyone – 2013

I can't believe how fast the past year has flown by!

As I look back over the past twelve months, the one thing that stands out the most is how blessed we are as a church family for all the support and help from our volunteers. Simply put...without you, things would just not get DONE!

This coming year will be one filled with significant changes for all of us at SCFBC. Please contact me with any ideas or changes that you have regarding our campus and facilities. Your thoughts are welcome and support for our church and community is very much appreciated.

### **2013**

**Sprint Upgrade:** Sprint will be upgrading their equipment in the very near future. I would like to thank Dave Wilson for successfully negotiating a new contract with Sprint which will result in a substantial monthly/yearly income increase for our church. Great job, Dave! More details to be released soon...

### ***Drainage***

The Property Dept. is looking into installing a French Drain behind the Fellowship Hall to facilitate the drainage in this area. Currently, it is very poor and a new drainage system will definitely help.

### ***Bethlehem Building***

This year, we will be in discussions to complete the painting of this building to help protect the exterior stucco walls and wood.

### ***Solar Power***

Starting next month, Dave Wilson and I will begin discussions on installing solar power on our campus to become more green and energy efficient. Part of this project will also be look at the current roof situations wear and life expectancy on both the Fellowship Hall and Education Wing before we move any further on a solar investment.

### ***Church Work Days:***

We are looking at beginning to have four work days per year to help with the maintenance and upkeep of our facilities and campus. Stay tuned for the upcoming work day schedule.

*Michael Depew*

*Property Deacon*

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## *Moving Forward*

The Board of Deacons is looking at how we can "Move Forward as a church". In early December, the board met with Dr. Hoyt to look at our next steps in how we, as a church, can fulfill the prescriptions given to us by Dr. Hoyt.

At the January church leadership retreat at Redwood Glen, the diaconate and other church leaders will work with Dr. Hoyt to develop a new governance model for the church. This is required by one of the prescriptions.

We will also be putting together an Envisioning Team as we seek to establish a Mission Statement and a goal-based vision statement for the church. We also need to identify our core beliefs and core values.

Please be in prayer for the leaders as we work together and as we work with Dr. Hoyt to help the church grow in numerically and spiritually and as we seek to develop disciples for Jesus Christ.

# ***Book Nook and Library Corner***

**As you go into 2013** what are your plans? Have you included reading a certain number of books or listening to audiobooks as a goal? Check out the church library or book area in the lobby to get your resources. The Church Library offers a collection of materials not available in the public library or in secular bookstores. So start your new year's habit of being a lifelong learner using books from the SCFBC Library.

**Lobby** - The books displayed this month in the Lobby coordinate with the sermon series of "Who Is This Man?", beginning January 6 through February 10. New DVDs are available and are listed below.

## **New DVD's in the Library:**

*The Encounter- Paradise Lost (2012)* - This is the second Encounter movie - a powerful suspenseful dramatic message of redemption and hope.

*Run On (2010)* - Another Pure Flix Entertainment DVD. Three comedians team up to tell their own prodigal journeys - each a unique personal experience.

*Me Again (2011)* - Another Pure Flix Entertainment DVD- This movie is about the funny side of a wake up call for the main character... it's about having a good friend and God who loves us anyway.

*Eyes To See- Haiti's Ongoing Needs - (2012)* Inspired by the personal experiences of the filmmakers, this drama carries a moving faith based servant's heart about Haiti's devastation after the earth quake.

*Pivot Point (2011)* - The decisions we make create a pivot point in our lives - life changing decision that could dramatically alter your future. Thoughts...dreams...interconnections...consequences...what could have been done?

*Under Jacob's Ladder (2012)* - Based on a true story about a German-Russian living out his faith during World War II in the Soviet Union prison during 1938.

*Standing Firm (2010)* - Grief is powerful and unexplainable sometimes. Prayer and God's love can see us through it.

**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!

**Have a blessed New Year from the Library Committee!**

## ***Freedom Summit - opportunity to learn more about Human Trafficking***

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



## **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*

## **January 2013**

### **Birthdays**

1<sup>st</sup> Bill Gregg  
8<sup>th</sup> Michele DuBord  
8<sup>th</sup> Sgt Megan Caswell (Army)  
9<sup>th</sup> Martin Gregoire  
11<sup>th</sup> Michelle Lasher  
12<sup>th</sup> Tina Bell  
14<sup>th</sup> Jerilyn Wozniak  
18<sup>th</sup> Jon Hammar  
20<sup>th</sup> Les Hawkins  
20<sup>th</sup> Robert Gregoire  
23<sup>rd</sup> Geneva Ash  
23<sup>rd</sup> Jane Bush

24<sup>th</sup> Kimberly Barnett  
24<sup>th</sup> Haley Trigg  
24<sup>th</sup> Lori Jones  
26<sup>th</sup> Fion Cheng  
26<sup>th</sup> Amy Trigg  
27<sup>th</sup> Daena Yuksel  
28<sup>th</sup> Andrew Jackson  
29<sup>th</sup> Jess Stephens  
30<sup>th</sup> Dwight Whipple

### **Anniversaries**

17<sup>th</sup> Joe & Michelle Lasher  
22<sup>nd</sup> Richard & Susi Reaves  
23<sup>rd</sup> Larry & Fran Van Groningen



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 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 Retreat at Redwood Glen
- 11-13 – Jr. High Element Winter Retreat
- 12 – 8:30am - Men's Breakfast - FH
- 16 – 6:00pm - CityTeam Shelter Outreach
- 19 - Card Making Event - Fellowship Hall
- 20 – 12:15pm - Mission/Schools Team Mtg - Library
- 21 – *February Celebrate articles due to Dave*
- 21 – **Martin Luther King Holiday – Office Closed**
- 21 – 7:00pm - Finance Committee Mtg - Library
- 24 – 11:30am - SR/BD Lunch Bunch
- 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
- 4 - Winter Trimester Life Groups begin thru April
- 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 Team 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
- 23 - Card Making Event - Fellowship Hall

## MARCH

**Mission Emphasis: America for Christ Offering**

- 1 – World Day of Prayer
- 2 - 8:30am Diaconate Mtg – Library
- 2– 10:00am Prayer Quilt Ministry–Room 19
- 2 – ABW Scholarship Fundraiser TBD – FH
- 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 – 9:30am Tentative Church Work Day
- 12 – 1:00pm Bethell Circle – Vera Masters' home
- 13 – 12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle – Parlor
- 16 - Card Making Event - Fellowship Hall
- 17 – 12:15pm - Mission/Schools Mtg – Library
- 18-7:00pm Finance Mtg – Library
- 20 – 6:00pm - CityTeam Outreach
- 21 - 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch
- 25 – *April Celebrate articles due to Dave*
- 29 - 10:00am Good Friday "Journey To The Cross"
- 30 - 10–3:00pm Easter Breakfast Prep – Kitchen
- 31 – 9:00am EASTER Breakfast Buffet- FH



