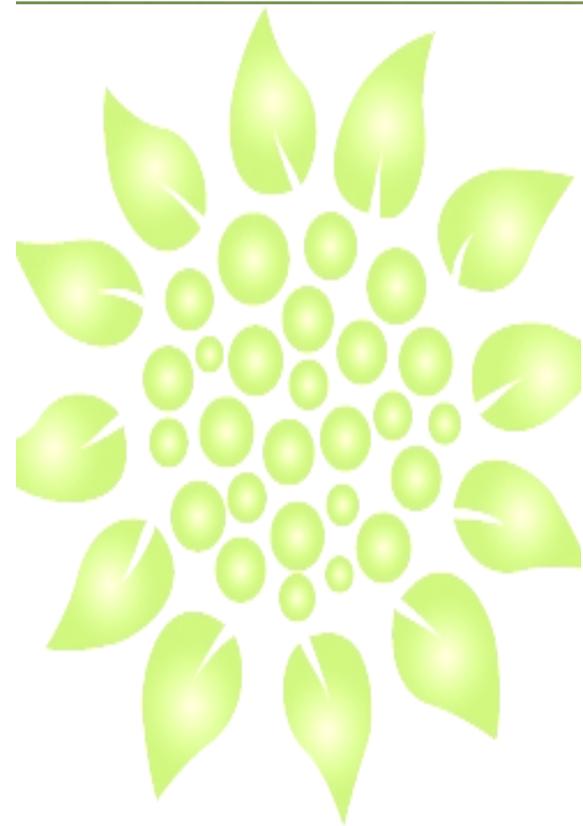


The Celebrate!

Santa Clara First Baptist Church

February 2013



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

February 26th

**At
Scott Lane Elementary**

Join with us as we celebrate the gift of giving with Scott Lane's students and teachers. It is not too late to get involved. See the inside story in the Missions Department report. It is never too late to join in!

“Moving Forward”

With 2013 here, we need to work on the Prescriptions given to us by our church’s assessment coach, Dr. Bill Hoyt. With this in mind, over 20 of our church leaders went to Redwood Glen for a retreat January 11th -13th where Dr. Hoyt led us as we looked at the list of suggested “Guiding Principles”. At the diaconate meeting on February 2nd, using these principles from Dr. Hoyt as well as those used by two of our sister churches as models, the deacons will be determining the Guiding Principles for SCFBC

An Envisioning Team is being formed to work with Dr. Hoyt in March to determine our vision and mission statements based on our core beliefs and core values. The vision statement is to be goal based. Other areas to be considered in 2013 are assimilation, leadership development and communications.

Please be in prayer for the staff, the Board of Deacons and the new Envisioning Team as we work to have Santa Clara First Baptist be a church that serves God and others and makes disciples. Also pray asking God what He would have you be and do as we move forward as God’s church.

Barbara Chicks,
Chairman of the Deacon Board

SCFBC continues to move forward in fulfilling the prescriptions Dr. Bill Hoyt has given to us. As Barbara mentioned above, at this month’s Leader Retreat our Board voted unanimously to move our form of self-governance into an **Accountability Model**. For us this means instituting a new structure of mutual responsibility between board and staff.

In this model for the first time in a long time specific ministry/mission goals will be put in place on a yearly basis. They will be similar in nature to the prescriptions Dr. Hoyt has given to us for 2013 (see our church website at <http://www.scfbc.org/prescriptions.htm>). These goals will be founded on our church’s key Mission Outcomes which the board is now working to complete.

Our **Envisioning Team** is ready to begin the process of revisiting and renewing our church’s vision for its future. This process begins with a thorough study of God’s Word concerning the nature of God, the fallen-ness of humanity, the atoning sacrifice of Christ, the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit, the power of God’s Word, the mission of God’s church, and the guiding and empowering significance of both prayer and worship.

With these Biblical understandings firmly in place the team will seek to see how each of the issues listed above directs our church to specific service for the Kingdom. The team’s work will provide a steady compass directing our future efforts for God and His glory.

The members of the Envisioning Team are:

Chuck Chicks, MaryAnn Fairall, Jenny Gregg, Tim McLenegan, Greg Robbins, Joel Robinson, and Pastor Rich

Please continue in your prayers for our continued progress!

Pastor Rich

Pssst!— "*The Real Good News about the Kingdom!*"

So just what is the “good news” of the Gospel? We who have grown up in the church community would probably say that the good news is that Jesus came, died for our sins, rose from the dead and made it possible for us to go to heaven. That is all certainly true. However, I have come to realize that Jesus had a central point that he emphasized over and over and over throughout the course of His ministry. He encouraged people to “repent, for the kingdom of heaven (or of God) is at hand”. The idea of the Kingdom was by far the most repeated point in all of Christ’s teachings, and is conveyed almost every time Jesus preached; it is mentioned 50 times in the book of Matthew alone. Almost all of His parables describe the Kingdom of God.

So what exactly is “the Kingdom”?

Most of us think of it as heaven—something that will affect us sometime in the future—and that is certainly true. But Jesus clearly taught that the Kingdom of God has come near and is available now. This was breaking news! Could this really mean that the Kingdom is relevant to me today in 2013? According to James Bryan Smith, “The good news about entering heaven when we die has overshadowed the equally good news that we can enter heaven now.”

Back to Eden!

Try pondering that today—no, try pondering that spiritual fact every day for a week. The good news is that yawning gap between us and God has been bridged and we can experience heaven right now! Ever since we got ourselves kicked out of Eden, God has been launching a massive rescue operation to restore us to that close relationship with Him. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, we have access to the Kingdom NOW!

True, the Kingdom of God is both a present and a future reality—one day God’s Kingdom will be fulfilled in a final and tangible way. But the fact that we are residents of his very real Kingdom right now begs the big question: Do we act like it?

An Identity Crisis

A favorite high school choir teacher used to tell us to “remember who you are, and act accordingly”. I think the truth is that most of us believers don’t fully grasp who we are and where we stand as followers of Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul writes, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come!” Too often we identify ourselves as sinners—or “sinners saved by grace”. And yet, in Christ we are new creatures. Jesus has invited us to be part of his Kingdom right now. While we may still sin sometimes, sin doesn’t define us anymore.

Look in the Mirror and Repeat After Me

In the Apprentice Study, Smith encourages participants to repeat the following phrase in order to get it through our thick heads:

“I am one in whom Christ dwells, and I live in the Kingdom of God.”

Knowing who we are in Christ can make all the difference when it comes to growing as a disciple (and acting accordingly!)

*Jenny Gregg,
Deacon of Maturity*

The good news about entering heaven when we die has overshadowed the equally good news that we can enter heaven now.”

James Bryan Smith



Questions...

Kids ask the best questions. The combination of inquisitive minds and a curious nature means children are constantly seeking to know more about the world around them. When it comes to spiritual topics, it's no different. However, while children are encouraged to ask questions about the world around them, adults often bristle at children's questions regarding God. Sometimes children's questions aren't received well simply because they ask really good questions we may not know how to answer — *"Where do dinosaurs fit into the Creation story?"* Other times, we shrug off their questions because we fear it means kids are questioning their faith— *"How do we know this is the right religion?"*

God's Word tells us to *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, **mind** and strength."* For a child, loving the Lord with their mind means asking all those wonderful questions. Although kids' questions can be difficult, by allowing kids to ask tough questions we give them room to take ownership of their faith and learn as much as possible about the Lord who loves them. Another great bonus is that when you offer to listen to your child's questions about God, you get to have a spiritual conversation with your child!

So, consider these ideas:

1. Ask your child if they have any questions about God. No question is off limits or too weird. Let their imaginations get involved.
2. Answer the questions you're able to. Write down the questions you need help with. Discuss questions that don't necessarily have an answer.
3. Listen!

If your child asks questions you need help with, please don't hesitate to contact me. I would be happy to help.

Pastor Jenny



Youth News

Reflect High School Group

We started the year with a New Year's eve party at Andrew and Mary's home and enjoyed playing board games till midnight.

In January, we completed our series on the book of Hosea. In this study, we learned how the prophecy of Hosea applied to the Israelites, but also predicted the coming of Christ. We started a new series on the Sermon on the Mount, hoping to answer questions we have about Jesus and his teachings.

The Element Jr. High Group

The Jr High group had a great time at Sugar Pine Christian camp enjoying the snow, games, and fellowship with other kids from around California. The speaker shared with us on how to not be content with where we are at and to strive for a better life with Jesus.

Since snow camp we have been doing a series called "Mountain Top" to bring the energy of snow camp back to Santa Clara and spend time on applying the lessons we learned from the speaker. We also shared our testimonies which was good practice and fun to hear each others unique testimony about how and when they accepted Jesus into their hearts.

Committed

Our Sunday morning group which meets at 9:15am in the youth room and just started studying the book of Psalms.

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



Upcoming EVENTS

Feb 8th - Mystery Madness Night
Feb 19th - 21st - College Tour Trip
Events at scfbc.org/element &
scfbc.org/reflect

Property Corner

Key Audit in Progress

Some of you may have been contacted by Trudy Kroll who is working with the church office conducting our annual key audit to verify that key holders are still in possession of their key and is actively using it. So when you receive a call from Trudy concerning the audit, please help her with the information needed so that we're able to account for all of the keys and complete this project by the end of the month.

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...

Fireside Room

We are in the planning stages to construct a wall and double doors replacing the existing accordion style divider between the fireside room and fellowship hall. This will help reduce interruptions from adjoining areas during children's church and other activities. So that we may do this work in the most cost-effective way, volunteers at all levels will be needed for carpentry, drywall and painting. If you have any of these skills or believe that you do contact the church office at 408-241-7635.

EdWing Boys Rest Room

This rest room has been closed for a couple weeks, the property department is working to replace flooring, paint and some fixtures.

Solar Power

Some time during the month of February, 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 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.

2012 Giving Statements

See Michelle Lasher for your 2012 giving statement, she will be available in the Lobby after the morning service.

Cans & Plastic Bottle Recycle Drive

Thanks for your continual support and Peggy's commitment to coordinating our drives, we have been able to make significant donations to our designated recipients. During the months of January and February our drives will continue and the proceeds will benefit the Cut~N~Paste Life Group.

If you have questions contact Peggy Shalloe at 408- 410 - 8933.

SCFBC T-Shirts and Hoodies Available

We have SCFBC T-shirts and hooded sweatshirts available for purchase. T-shirts are \$10, and Hoodies are \$20. Both can be purchased at the Information Table in the Lobby, or contact Pastor Jenny at jennifer@scfbc.org.

Missions Department Thoughts from January 2013

As we start 2013, in this time of transition and revitalization, a couple points need to be remembered.

We accepted the prescriptions from Dr. Bill Hoyt.

1. One of those was to increase our giving by 20% (an increase in “tithing” from 5% to 6%). Please join me in giving at least 10% of your increased giving to Missions. The mission allocations approved at the QFG in faith assumed this increased giving.
2. Another was to make all of our outreach activities more evangelistic – the goal being for at least one unchurched person/household to come to Christ as a result of each outreach. This will bring some changes.
 - a. A corollary is, if an outreach isn’t “bearing fruit”, we’ll either need to tweak it or prune it.
 - b. As you plan to participate in each and every outreach event, pray about whom from among your (unchurched) friends you can invite. Relationship building is part of evangelism. If you already have a relationship, you’re halfway to reaching the person for Christ.

Another was to achieve at least 65% of our congregation actively involved in missions or ministry on an ongoing basis. Looking back at the survey taken late last year:

- 33% didn’t actively participate in any of the mission
- 18% only participated in one mission activity (typically Bethlehem)
- 11% participated in two activities (typically Bethlehem and Worship in the Park)
- 11% participated in three activities
- 14% participated in four activities
- 13% actively participated in more than four mission activities

While I realize some have health conditions which preclude active involvement, for the rest of us must ask, What’s our excuse? One or two mission activities per year is not “an ongoing basis”.

On the Scott Lane Elementary School outreach:

- a. We intend to give them the collected school supplies on 26 Feb. Copy paper is still needed.
- b. One teacher could use a bilingual (English & Spanish) helper in the mornings.
- c. The principal would like to start a Homework Club (2:30 to 3:30) daily. We seek volunteers.

If anyone can help with the above, see me or Kimberly Barnett.

Our thanks go out to Danijela Tomic. She came up with the idea of sanitizing Emergency Room (single use) blankets and giving them to the homeless as part of our SF Homeless Cold Weather outreach. Kaiser liked the idea and now that’s being done throughout northern California by Kaiser. Great idea and good work, Danijela!

Some new outreaches we’re going to try this year:

- 28-29 June: BBQ contest at Central Park (including Pancake breakfasts and other events typical of the former 4th of July celebration). We’re still investigating how we can help.
- 14-15 September: Santa Clara Art & Wine Festival (envisioning having a booth and volunteering to help with clean up and volunteering in the children’s area)
- September: Mexico house building project (pre-build 1 or 2 houses at the beginning of September, assemble in Mexico at the end of September)

If any of these outreach/mission projects interest you, please see me, Shannon McMaken or Jerry Cintas or consider attending a missions meeting. Dates are posted on the church calendar.

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



Santa Clara First Baptist

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.

See Matthew 28:19-20

FEBRUARY 2013

Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 st | Mary Wong | 15 th | Ayla Fung |
| 1 st | Aaron Robichaud | 16 th | Barbara Chicks |
| 3 rd | Bea Sturtevant | 20 th | Lloyd Darknell |
| 5 th | Steve Victorson | 20 th | Stephen Wong |
| 6 th | Billie McPherson | 22 nd | Michael Depew |
| 7 th | Doris Smith | 22 nd | Gary White |
| 8 th | Gary Baits | 23 rd | Virginia Gehman |
| | Costa Rica Missionary | 26 th | Joanne Bialczak |
| 11 th | Lois Lovelace | | |

Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 th | Gary & Karen Dong |
| 14 th | Jon & Jennifer Hammar |
| 14 th | Steve & Patti Victorson |
| 20 th | Richard & Pat Graham |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Annual Diaconate Reports due to Dave before Feb 4

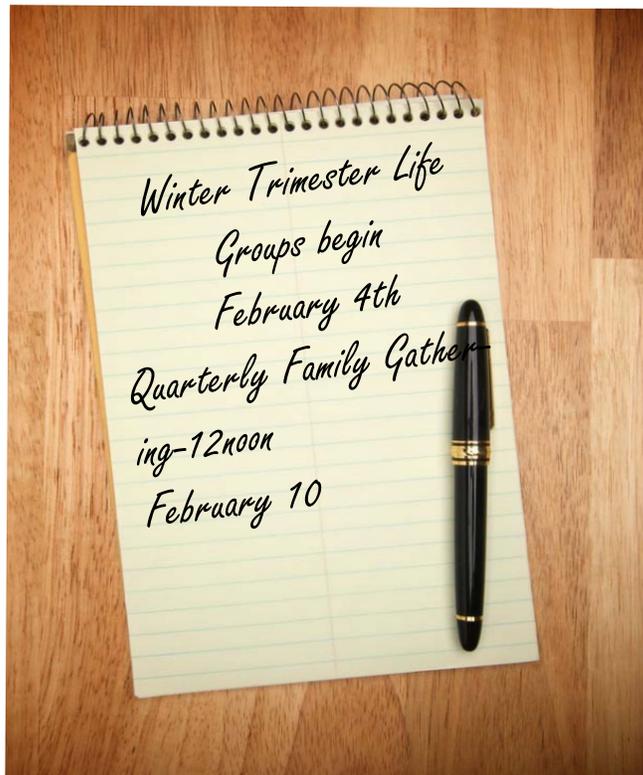
- 2 – 8:30am - Diaconate Mtg - Library
- 2– 10:00am - Prayer Quilt Ministry - Room 19
- 2 – 6:00pm - 1st Sunday (on Saturday) Praise & Prayer Service
- 4 - Winter Trimester Life Groups begin thru April 27
- 6 – 10:00am - White Cross - Room 19
- 7 – 10:00am - Prayer Quilt Ministry - Room 19
- 8 – Youth Game Night
- 9 – 8:30am - Men’s Breakfast - FH
- 9 – 10:00am - Manna prep - kitchen
- 10 – Scout Sunday
- 10 – **12:00pm - Quarterly Family Gathering**
- 13 – 1:30pm - Joint Circle Mtg - Maxine’s home
- 15 – 12noon Card Event Prep
- 16 - 9-12pm Back to Basics w/Pastor Rich - Parlor
- 16 – 3-8:30pm Card Marking Event - FH
- 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*
- 19-21 - Youth College Tour - Wongs
- 20 – 6:00pm -CityTeam Mission Outreach
- 21- 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch
- 3 - 10am White Cross – Room 19
- 6 – 8:30am Diaconate Mtg - Library
- 6 - 10am Prayer Quilt Ministry–Room 19
- 7 – 6:00pm 1st Sunday Praise and Prayer Service
- 9 – 1:00pm Bethell Circle Pot luck – Ellen’s home
- 10 – 12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle – parlor
- 11 - 10am Prayer Quilt Ministry–Room 19
- 13 – 8:30 Men’s Breakfast – FH
- 15 - 7pm Finance Mtg – Library
- 17 – 6pm -CityTeam Outreach
- 18 – 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch
- 18 – 5:30pm Private event – Parlor/Lobby
- 19 – 12noon Card Event Prep
- 20 - 3-8:30pm Card Making Event - FH
- 21 - 12:15pm - Mission/Schools Mtg – Library
- 22– *May Celebrate articles due to Dave*
- 26-27 Planet Wisdom Youth Conference (away)
- 27 – Winter Trimester Life Groups end
- 30 – 8pm Rummage Sale Set-up

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 – Tentative ABW Scholarship Fundraiser – FH
- 3 - 6:00pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
- 6 - 10:00am White Cross – Room 19
- 7 -10:00am Prayer Quilt Ministry – Room 19
- 8-9 Youth 30 hour Famine Event
- 8-10 Envisioning Team Mtgs - Parlor & Library
- 9 – 8:30am Men’s Breakfast- FH
- 12 – 1:00pm Bethell Circle – Vera’s home
- 13 – 12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle – Parlor
- 15 – 12noon Card Event Prep
- 15-17 Envisioning Team Mtgs - Parlor & Library
- 16 - 3- 8:30pm 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 Manna Easter Breakfast Prep–Kitchen
- 31 – 9:00am EASTER Breakfast Buffet- FH

APRIL



Book Nook and Library Corner

Book Nook - The books displayed this month coordinate with the sermon series of “Who Is This Man?”, beginning January 6th through February 10th. Not only that, but beginning Tuesday January 22, at 7pm X Factor Life Group is doing a book study on John Ortberg’s book, Who Is This Man? at Creama Coffee House, 950 The Alameda, San Jose, (kitty corner from Chipotle Restaurant). Contact Jonathan Fung at funghus@sbcglobal.net if you have more questions.

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!

If you are interested in helping out in the Library Ministry, please let Jenny Gregg know at jennygregg@comcast.net, there are many on-going projects that could use your talents. Have you seen the Library since Peggy and Unice teamed up to provide new binding labels for the books and reorganized the sections? Not only does it look great but it is easier to find books on the shelves.

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.

Please enjoy the materials and the freedom we have in having a Library - happy reading and viewing from the Library Committee!

January’s Card Making Event

Thank you to everyone who has donated card stock, used and new cards with envelopes, calendars, and other supplies for this ministry. Last Saturday, January 19th, forty three people from SCFBC and visitors made **832 Valentine’s cards** that are being sent to military personnel overseas. Thank fully, our

own Bobby Ramer and his group will be the recipients of one box of Valentine cards and hard candy.

Mark your calendars: We will meet again on February 16th in the Fellowship Hall from 3:00pm to 8:30pm to make “Thank You” and “Thinking of You” cards. Please bring your family and friends to help us supply “kards4soldiers” with more cards for their monthly mailings. And save the dates for March 16th and April 20th for other Card Making Events. Feel free to bring your own card stock (5.5” X 4.5”) and card making tools or to use ours. We have a pot-luck dinner around 5:30pm.

From the Cut-N-Paste Life Group

