

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

### **February Birthdays**

### Anniversaries

Jon & Jennifer Hammar

Steve & Patti Victorson

**Richard & Pat Graham** 

Å

14<sup>th</sup>

14<sup>th</sup>

20<sup>th</sup>

- Mary Wong 1<sup>s†</sup>
- 1<sup>s†</sup> Aaron Robichaud
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bea Sturtevant
- $5^{\text{th}}$ Steve Victorson
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Billie McPherson**
- **7**<sup>th</sup> Doris Smith
- 8<sup>th</sup> Gary Baits - Costa Rica Missionary
- $11^{\text{th}}$ Lois Lovelace
- 15<sup>th</sup> Ayla Fung
- 16<sup>th</sup> Barbara Chicks
- $20^{\text{th}}$ Lloyd Darknell
- Michael Depew 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Gary White 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Gehman
- 26<sup>th</sup> Joanne Bialczak

# The Celebrate! Santa Clara First Baptist Church

Valentines



See inside cover for front page story.



February 2012



By this all men will know that you are my disciples, If you Love one another.

John 13:35

## How God leads or how a Life Group was developed...

In October, Peggy Shalloe and I were at the Resource Area For Teachers (RAFT) using their die cut machines to cut out decorations for Trunk or Treat. I remember we were working quickly because the place was about to close when a woman came around and gave us a business card. She explained it was her daughters card, that she was there to get supplies for a class the daughter was going to teach on making cards. Making cards is one of my hobbies so it piqued my curiosity. Her daughter is the Executive Director of two non-profits organizations; one is called Kards4Soldiers and the other is called Kards4Kids. They were asking others to come along side and help make cards because the need was so great. As I said, we were short on time so I just got the card, and we went on cutting. But Peggy and I chatted about how maybe we might be able to get a group of people together to make some cards for Kards4Soldiers and help out..

Enter Life Groups 2.0 - a request went out about proposed classes for the first trimester ,so I talked with Pastor Rich with my proposed idea and the Cut~N~Paste Life Group was developed.

In December I sent the Executive Director an email to ask her "How can the SCFBC Cut-N-Paste Life Group help Kards4Soldiers"? Her extremely gracious reply not only included the answer but included an sincere invitation to attend a Appreciation Dinner Celebration for the 2011 helpers on January 12th. Gladys McFarland went with me. Imagine our surprise when we got to the dinner and discovered that the Executive Director is the ripe old age of 18!

Her projects got started three years ago when she discovered that her grandmother did not receive Valentines cards when she was in the hospital on Valentine's Day and that no one else in the hospital received cards either. So she decided she would make cards and contacted local hospitals to find out how many they thought they would need. When those cards were completed, she still "had time" and decided that the deployed military personnel could use cards too so she made some more. So the first year her organization sent out over 9,000 cards overseas, the second year the organization sent out over 11,000. Then in 2011 she got help from classrooms, churches, friends and they sent out 22,000 cards to military personnel overseas. I haven't even addressed her local distribution of cards to hospitals - nursing homes - doctors - nurses - police officers - sheriffs - CHP - fire fighters and EMT's ,so the total scope of the ministry is far reaching both locally and overseas.

I learned that there was a mailing date of January 26th for Valentines for overseas so on January 19th I gathered some of the members of the Cut-N-Paste Life Group so we could make Valentine cards. We wanted to contribute since we are partnering with "Kards4Soldiers" and knew that they were doing a mailing overseas. Seven of us met, made some cards and on Saturday, January 21st, I delivered 150 cards to the Executive Director Ruth Cormier. It is a blessing to partner with this group as Cut-N-Paste Life Group's outreach. Thank you, thank you to everyone who has donated new and old cards, calendars, pictures and "stuff" to our class! Our need now is card stock. paper We will use it as we learn more about card making, supplying cards for shut-ins, our own personal use and for partnering with "kards4soldiers". Thank you for your support!

See http://kards4soldiers.wordpress.com and/or http//kards4kids.wordpress.com if you want to know more about this awesome ministry lead by an 18 year old.

Happy Valentine's Day from the Cut-N-Paste Life Group!

Jerri Cooper Cut-N-Paste Life Group Facilitator

#### **FEBRUARY**

- 1 10am White Cross Lobby Virginia N. 266-1734
- 2 Diaconate Annual Reports due to Dave
- 5 New Life Groups start (continue through April )
- 5 –12p Life Group Leaders Mtg– Library
- 5– 6pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
- 8-12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle Gladys home
- 11 8:30am Men's Ministry-Parlor Adam 230-6848
- **11-** 8:30am Diaconate Mtg Library
- 12–12pm Quarterly Family Gathering—FH
- 14–1:00pm Bethell Circle Marlene's home
- 15 6pm -CityTeam Outreach Jonathan 813-2505
- **19** 12:15pm Mission/Schools Team Mtg Library
- 20 Presidents' Day Holiday Office Closed
- 20 -7pm Finance Mtg–Library 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

#### MARCH

#### **Mission Emphasis: America for Christ Offering**

- 2 World Day of Prayer
- 3 ABW Spring Mtg Selma FBC, Oakland Ellen
- **4** 6pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
- 6- 12p Life Group Leaders Mtg Lib Pastor Rich
- 7 10am White Cross Lobby Virginia N. 266-1734
- 10 8:30am Men's Breakfast- FH Adam 230- 6848
- 10 8:30am Diaconate Mtg-Lib-Barbara C. 739-2935
- **10 9:30am All Church Workday**
- 11 12:15pm Mission/Schools Mtg Lib Jim G
- 13 1:00pm Bethell Circle Vera Masters home
- 14 12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle Parlor
- 17 9:30am Back to Basics Pastor Rich's office
- **19** Youth Mentors Mtg Kim's home
- **19** -7pm Finance Mtg Library
- **21** 6pm CityTeam Outreach Jonathan 813-2505
- 22 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch Betty 244-5949
- **26** April Celebrate articles due to Dave
- 30-31 Youth 30 Hour Famine Event FH
- **31** 8:30am Diaconate Mtg –Library

#### **APRIL**

- **1**–12 pm Life Grp Leaders Mtg–Library
- **1** 6pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service
- 4 10am White Cross Lobby Virginia N. 266-1734
- **6** 10am–9pm Good Friday "Journey To The Cross"
- 7 10–3pm Easter Breakfast Prep Kitchen
- 8 9am EASTER breakfast FH
- **10** 1:00pm Bethell Circle Ellen's home
- 11-12 10-6pm Rummage Sale setup FH
- 11 12:30pm Baits/Turley Circle Parlor
- 14 8:30 Men's Breakfast FH Adam 230-6848
- 13-14 8:30am Rummage Sale-FH-Maxine 241-7567
- **??** Mexico Work Trip
- 15 12:15pm Mission/Schools Mtg Library
- **16** 7pm Finance Mtg Library
- 18 6pm -CityTeam Outreach Jonathan 813-2505
- **21** 8:30a–4pm ABW Coastal Valley Rally
- **23** *May Celebrate articles due to Dave*
- 26 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch Betty 244-5949
- **27-28** Planet Wisdom Youth Conference

Keep The Dates New Life Groups begin Feb. 5th

Life Group Leaders Meeting - Feb. 5th

BD-Lunch Bunch Gathering - Feb.23rd Annual Scholarship Luncheon - Feb 25th

# A Word On Worship

One of my favorite passages in the Bible is John 12:3.

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Mary comes to Jesus during a dinner in His honor with expensive perfume, pours it on Jesus' feet then she wipes it off with her hair. She comes to Him full of worship and gratitude. Her worship cost her something and it seems spontaneous. The next part is my favorite! It says at the end of verse 3 "*and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume*." I like to think that wherever she went that day people could smell her worship and gratitude because it was in her hair. She smelled good everywhere she went. When we worship God here, we still smell good even after we leave!

I grew up with a strong sense of duty to God and to the church. I don't mean duty in a bad sense at all. God is worthy of our worship, service, our time, etc... I really believe that God should be worshipped simply because He is worthy. That is actually what the word 'worship' means, ascribing worth to God. There is honor in this type of worship; it is our "duty" because He is worth it! The danger in this, of course, is that it can become meaningless like it did with the Israelites. They had "worship of God because He is worthy" down pat, but it became a ritual - a formula - without meaning. Formulas don't work. Donald Miller in his book <u>Blue Like Jazz</u> says,

"I believe that the greatest trick of the devil is not to get us into some sort of evil, but rather have us wasting time. This is why the devil tries so hard to get Christians to be religious. If he can sink a person's mind into habit, he will prevent His heart from engaging God."

Worship out of duty or because we think we should or it's just something that we do every Sunday is honorable if you mean it, but even then I'm not so sure that you can smell it! Worship out of a deep gratitude and response to God's amazing love and grace is fragrant. 2 Corinthians 2:14-15 says,

In Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade. Through us, He brings knowledge of Christ. Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance. Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God, which is recognized by those on the way of salvation – an aroma filled with life. (The Message)

Let's be a sweet aroma rising up to God and smelling good to others wherever we go.

Sharon Cintas Worship Leader

#### **BITS AND PIECES**

#### First Sunday Praise and Prayer Service February 5, 2012

All praises due our Lord and Savior as we have seen our First Sunday service being well attended. Please come and bring a friend as we seek the Holy Spirit's guidance and direction for SCFBC.

#### **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

students attending American Baptist Seminary of the West and

Bacone College - Muskogee, Oklahoma

Convention Baptist College - Philippines

Both schools will receive scholarships of equal value.

# Maturity

### Monitor your Heart—Stat!

Jesus did such a helpful thing for us when he distilled the Law and all his commandments down to this:

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37 - 39

Then Jesus gave us our clear marching orders in what is known as the Great Commission:

<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

# "This is a Football"

Pastor Rich referred to a story of Coach Vince Lombardi getting his wayward, ineffective football team back on track. Lombardi explained to the team that they needed to get back to the core of the game and, holding up a ball, he told them, "This is a football."

For individual believers and for the church as a whole, the Great Commission is "the football"—our basic, defining standard. As we start to explore what it means make disciples, it is obvious that I must first determine whether I am a growing disciple myself. This requires careful examination of the heart—a process that can be difficult and even painful sometimes, but that is absolutely essential if we want to be an effective, growing church that makes disciples.

When I am more focused on how the chairs are arranged on a Sunday morning, or whether Sharon plays my favorite songs, or if I enjoy Pastor Rich's sermon, then I think I have crossed the line—I have become a **customer**, not a **disciple**.

I don't think God particularly cares whether I enjoy a worship service or not! I don't think he's even that interested in whether I "get something" out of the service. I strongly suspect that God is a lot more interested in what I put into the worship service. He cares about the condition of my heart.

Everything we do should be measured against the Great Commandment, and the Great Commission. Am I being a loving disciple of Jesus, or am I being a typical American consumer?

In so many parts of the world, believers meet together (often in secret and at great risk) with "nothing"—no pews, no church facilities, no musical instruments, no sanctuary or pulpit, and often even with no printed Bible! I suspect that in some ways they have an advantage over us at applying the gospel and growing as disciples.

Pastor Rich suggested that we need to "prune" our lives and hearts in order to flourish. I challenge each of us at Santa Clara First Baptist Church to acknowledge our consumer mentality toward church as the sin that it is. If we truly want our church to grow and be effective in making disciples, we need an emergency heart check-up now!

Jenny Gregg Deacon of Maturity

# Missions

Thanks for all your support (effort and monetary) over the last year. You/we accomplished good things for the Lord and for SCFBC. Thanks particularly for the support you've donated to Scott Lane Elementary School – the jackets, school supplies, box tops for education, SOAR tutoring, carnival support and anything else you've done or given that I may not be aware of.

Of the 39 jackets donated, 37 have already been put to use by students at the school. Since winter will be with us for a while, please continue to bring in any children's size, BLUE, GRAY or BLACK jackets. No gaping tears. Working zippers. No team logos. They seem to be in need. Also, as announced last Sunday, we are continuing to collect school supplies – particularly copy paper and Kleenex.

Also, please check the Missions calendar on the Missions tab at the SCFBC website. You can get a feel for the various activities we track and support. Please volunteer or donate of your time, effort, or money as you feel led.

#### **Breaking News for Missions**

We had added and announced the need for playground balls at Scott Lane, but after worship last Sunday a member came forward and volunteered to buy all 25 balls!! Being a past school administrator she knows what kind of balls are needed and wanted to take care of this need.

Also, many of you have met our special interest missionaries, Glen and Rita Chapman. They are currently on leave in the States and will visit us sometime this Spring. Rita has been diagnosed with breast cancer. They have caught it early and judge that radiation with no chemotherapy will be enough to eliminate it. Rita will begin a radiation regimen later this month (5 times a week for 4 weeks). Please keep the Chapman family in your prayers.

Jim Garvey Deacon of Missions

### QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

The first quarterly business meeting of 2012 will be held February 12<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served at noon and the meeting will follow immediately. The SCFBC Annual Report for 2011 will be distributed at that time. In addition, we also will be confirming the election by the diaconate of Tina Mulford as treasurer for 2012 and Michele DuBord for a 2- year term on the Pastoral Relations Committee. Come and learn more about what is happening in our church and plans for the New Year!

## **Property Corner**



Thank you for asking me to participate in our church family in this way as Deacon of Property. It is with great pleasure that I take on this role and to serve my church family in using my God-given skills and to be able to solicit the help of others in doing the very best possible in the maintenance and upkeep of our church property.

#### Volunteers

The Property Department is very grateful to everyone who gives of their time and talents that can sometimes go unnoticed. Thank You Very Much!

#### Reminder

During the last few weeks some of us have encountered doors left unlocked, lights left on and furnaces still running. 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 buildings secure and utility expenses down.

#### General

Please contact Dave Wilson or me should you see something that needs to be repaired!

#### In January

We've had the long awaited high speed internet installed. We are currently in negotiations with Sprint Telecommunications concerning upgrades to their existing equipment. The start date for these upgrades has yet to be determined. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

#### 2012 - All Church – Workdays

The following dates have been chosen for workdays this year. Expect a call and visit from me requesting your participation as we approach these dates.

- March 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30am 3:00pm
  - July 14<sup>th</sup> 9:30am 3:00pm
    - 9.30am 3.00pm
- October 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30am 3:30pm

Here to Serve, Larry Van Groningen Deacon of Property Call or text 530-356-7676 larryvangroningen@gmail.com



# Life Groups 2.0!

Now is a fantastic time to try out a Life Group! The Winter/Spring trimester commences the week of February 5<sup>th</sup> with all Life Groups beginning a new 12-week session at that time. With a variety of Life Groups to choose from, there's sure to be one that is perfect for you.

<u>Please remember - it is still necessary to sign up for a Life Group even if you plan to join a group you have</u> <u>already attended.</u> Sign-ups end February 4<sup>th</sup> and spaces fill up, so don't delay!

#### What is a Life Group?

Life Groups are 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 their 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 turn it into the friendly person at the Information Table in the Lobby. You can also sign up online at <u>http://www.scfbc.org</u>.

#### 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, it is still necessary to 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.

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

**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.

**Some NEW Christian movies** added to the collection: <u>Anne of Green Gables</u> now has three DVD's in the collection, taking Anne's determined story from the orphanage to her adult life. If you watch these, please note they are two-sided disks for your enjoyment.

The Shunning - (DVD) a Janette Oke story about an Amish family dealing with a young girl's heart.

<u>The Way Home (DVD)</u> A family is looking forward to their long-awaited vacation with their 2 year old son, when all of a sudden he is missing. What a horrific time, but within hours their rural Georgia community pulls together and looks for him. Many see God in this experience—a parent's worst nightmare.

<u>Unanswered Prayers</u> (DVD) This inspirational story is about an all-American family man whose commitment is tested when his fantasy love from high school comes back into his life - a thought provoking story about marriage, family, community and faith.

There have already been many requests for the recently released DVD <u>Courageous</u> but it isn't in the library yet ... we are planning on getting it shortly.

**Book reviews:** Did you know that the SCFBC Library is a great resource for Bible commentaries and other Bible study helps? These commentaries are helpful for understanding about how the Bible is relevant to our lives today. Check out the many study options that are made available to you throughout the year.

**Returning library materials**: Thank you for returning books in a timely manner to the red box in the Book Nook located in the Sanctuary Lobby. Many materials that have been borrowed for awhile are being returned to the shelves and we are being able to complete the bar code processing of those items.

**Thank You** for your books and DVD contributions that we are able to take to book buyers and traders which generate trade funds to buy additional or updated materials for the SCFBC Library. Thank you also for your monetary contributions for the Library. Because of your generous contributions, materials are continually being added! If you have an interest in helping in the Library, come join the Library Committee either on Thursdays at 10:00am or on Sundays at 9:00am in the Library (Rooms 31-32) as we sort, process and upgrade the materials in the Library. Call Jenny Gregg at 408-244-0985 for more details.

### Happy reading (and viewing)!

The Library Committee

# **Membership**

Quarterly Family Gathering: Everyone is invited to the next Quarterly Family Gathering lunch on February 12th after morning worship A delicious lunch will be served by the very capable Manna Group now coordinated by Amanda Morris. Donations be taken for the meal but payment is not mandatory. Afterwards, there will be a business meeting. The 2011 Annual Report will also be available.

**Food Pantry:** We accept non-perishable food items from contributors and redistribute it to those in need. It is available in a two-bag distribution to people who ask for a food donation at the office. The bags are prepared and there are six sets available all of the times. The SCFBC website says that food bags can be picked up the last week of the month. Please pass on word of the opportunity to those in need...

Fellowship Fund: You can either donate to this special offering by indicating "Fellowship Fund" on your giving envelope or request funds from it. This fund is to help those in our church family with for a helping hand for unexpected bills or expenses. Call the church office for more information.

Good Samaritans: Maxine Darknell coordinates a group of people who help others with light chores that you may not be able to handle for a variety of reasons. This could include food preparation, providing transportation for medical appointments as well as shopping/errand running, and light housecleaning. Call Maxine at 408-241-7567 if you want help of this sort or if you would like to be available to help people with needs such as these. Sometimes we just can't do it all alone.

**Visitation:** What a blessing it is when I hear that a Life Group visited the shut-ins or people recovering from an operation. We are here to help out and extend a hand of comfort to each other. If you would like a visit or would like to bless others by visiting them, please contact Jerri Cooper in the SCFBC office, 408-241-7635.

Are you considering baptism or membership with Santa Clara First Baptist Church (SCFBC)? Do you want to know more about this local church? Call Pastor Rich at 408-241-7635 to indicate your interest. Membership classes called "Back to Basics" are held at various times throughout the year; dates and times are determined as the need arises. This class informs newcomers and regular attenders alike about SCFBC and what is needed to make a commitment to this church family. There is no obligation to join SCFBC after attending the class. The first Back to Basics class will be March 17th from 9am - 12:30pm. Call Pastor Rich or Jerri Cooper at the church office at 408-241-7635 for more information.

Sermons, monthly newsletter, the Celebrate, the weekly bulletin and the church calendar: These can all be accessed on the website at www.scfbc.org.

Prayer Chain: Do you want to be added to the SCFBC email prayer chain? Email Trudy Kroll at 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. Dave or Pastor in the office can also be notified. Trudy coordinates the email prayer chain and once a prayer request is given to her, she forwards it to a list of nearly 100 homes so prayer warriors can pray for the request. One of those people picks up the request and starts a telephone prayer chain with another dozen or so households. Call Jerri Cooper at the church office if you have questions about the prayer chains.

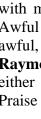
Jerri Cooper Representative for the Membership Department

# Youth News

#### **Reflect High School Group**

In January, we kicked off a new series discussing questions about our faith. Kim discussed "How do I see myself?" and "Who am I really?" taking a deeper look at who we think we are and who we really are in God's eyes. Mary discussed "Who can I become?", and reminded us that we are to reflect God's glory. Andrew finished up January discussing "How do I see God?" using the parable of the lost son and talking about how God wants to relate with us, not rule over us. We also experienced an awesome winter retreat, albeit





We also were able to celebrate Chevenne Horrillo's 14th birthday on one of the nights. Surprise!!

#### 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 youth meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Youth Room with Kimberly Barnett.

Youth Staff - Danijela, Mary, Andrew, Alexandra, Fion, *Kimberly, Jerry* 

### **Upcoming EVENTS**

February 22nd - Reflect High School Group @ Sky High March 30-31st - 30 Hour Famine

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



with minimal snow at Hume Lake. The theme this year was "An Awful Life", where we were challenged to think of our lives as not awful, but full of awe for what God has done in them. Stephanie Raymond, Alexus Padgett, and Kyle Dmello all made decisions either to recommit their lives to the Lord or begin following Him! Praise the Lord!

#### **The Element Jr. High Group**

In January we started up small groups on Thursday nights. For the next two months we will have consistent groups that meet after our lesson to discuss questions from the lesson and have prayer time. Les Hawkins, Fion Cheng, and Jerry Cintas are the group leaders. We also started a new series called "Our God is Greater" where we explore different aspects of God like: How do I see God? Is God my Father? What did Jesus do for me? Can God live in me? and Can God use me?

We ended January at Hume Lake for our winter retreat and will share that experience with you in next month's newsletter.



