

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

EXPERIENCING CHRIST'S LOVE, EXTENDING CHRIST'S HANDS SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

July 2009

## Ministries Abounding

*Ministry, Mission and Small Group News*

### Turning the Tables on Hunger! FPC Monthly Food Drive

Our next Food Drive Sunday is August 2. Bring canned and packaged food for hungry people served by Sacred Heart Community Service. Of special need for homeless people they serve are "meals in a can" items (spaghetti, chili, stew, etc) with pop-top lids.

### Salad Supper Summer Series

The Salad Supper study series dates have changed from what was previously indicated in the May newsletter due to the unavailability of the speaker on one evening. The new dates indicated in the attached flyer are July 1, July 8, and July 22. The topic will be "Our Spiritual Gifts" and the leader for this series is Suzanne Ungson from Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church. Suzanne is the Director of Lay Ministries at Sunnyvale Pres. Several Sunnyvale Pres folks will join us for this series so please help make them feel welcome. The starting time was changed to 7:00 p.m. for the first session to allow more time for our Sunnyvale folks to travel to our church during the commute hours, but has been changed back to 6:30pm.

The Mission Team will provide salads, bread, drinks and dessert for the first evening with sign-ups from the congregation for the remaining two evenings. A nominal donation will be requested.

Join us and find out what your spiritual gifts are, and where you can best apply them at our church.



### Do you like working with Preschoolers?



If so, please see Alanna Spencer  
our Sunday School Director.

Angela Kamau,  
our Preschool Attendant  
will be on vacation  
July 26- September 6<sup>th</sup>.

We will need someone to play and love the  
smallest of our church  
in the preschool room during church service.

### Music Ministry

#### KIDZ-MUZIK

The Kidz-Muzik will continue to  
practice on Sundays.

Please bring them by 10 AM all Summer Sundays so  
they can help with the praise songs. The rest of the  
Music Team would rejoice if the children join in to  
"lead" the praise songs.

#### SUMMER MUSIC

If you can sing and/or can make any instrument  
sound by blowing, tapping, shaking or strumming, join  
our music team on Sundays early for practice. We  
invite you to join this Sunday and all Summer Sundays  
that you are in town!





## CROPWalk Final Update Addendum

The Final Final totals are in! With a few additional pledges turned in our CROPWalk contributions topped out at \$960! Pretty impressive for our little but caring congregation.

Just a reminder that the CROPWalk is an event where neighbors walk together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting.

## Pancake Breakfast for Mission = Children's Camperships

The Pancake Breakfast was a big success!

The cooks, shoppers, campers and parent volunteers really worked hard to help us serve 68 breakfasts and earn about \$300!

As you know, the campers who do receive camperships to attend Westminster Woods Summer Camp would not be able to attend without your help. The camp week of learning about, and being close to, God is a great influence in our children's lives.

Thank you all  
for your support!



## Pentecost Offering Final Report

We are happy to report that \$510.75 was received from the Pentecost Offering this year. 40% of this amount (\$204.30) will be kept by our church and will be used to support programs to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. The Mission Team has decided to give our share of this offering



to the Bill Wilson Drop-In Center for Homeless Youth.

## Summer Sunday School Volunteers Needed!

We still need volunteers for our Summer Sunday School classes! This is an opportunity for those who may not want to make a long-term commitment to teaching but still want to connect with the children. You can do anything you like such as cook, crafts or board games.

We especially need coverage in July. Take a look at your schedule and let Alanna, Travis or Fredericka know. We can help you with some ideas!

July 5 – Movie Day  
July 12 – Open  
July 19 – Open



# Life in the Family of God

## FPC Worship in the Park and Annual Picnic

As part of FPC's annual all-church picnic we will hold our worship service on July 26<sup>th</sup> under the oak trees at Vasona Park.

The service will begin at 10:30 am at the Pepper Tree Group Site.

Following the service, there will be a BBQ lunch provided by our master chef RC Ackerman.

Alanna Spencer and the CYP (Christian Youth Programs) Committee will have some outdoor toys/games for the kids.

Tickets to ride the train or merry-go-round will also be available for young and old. The train and merry-go-round are a favorite for many of us every year! I guess there is a bit of the kid in all of us.

What can you do to help?

**First** - Please let your parish leaders know if you will be attending. A sign-up sheet is also available directly under the Connections bulletin board in the Narthex to sign up for the picnic.

**Second** - Members of each parish are asked to bring side dishes or desserts. If you sign up in the Narthex, please include the type of dish you plan to bring. Because we hope to invite friends and neighbors too, please bring a little bit more (enough for your own plus a guest family or 8-10 people).

**Third** - invite someone to join us! This is the perfect opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor and introduce them to First Presbyterian Church San Jose.

**And last - but not least** - help with setup or cleanup. Three or four people are still needed to help set up the worship area, put table coverings on the picnic tables, etc. A similar or greater number will be needed to help clean up the picnic area following the picnic.

Carpool transportation from FPC will be available for those who need it - please contact Ole Johnson.

## Countdown to Camp!

It's finally here! July is camp month!!

The first camper, Brian Jonasson, is at Friendship Camp this week. Make sure you ask him about his week the next time you see him!



Patrick and John Tierney will leave for camp July 12 and return the following Saturday. The majority of our campers will leave for Westminster Woods following our Worship Service and Picnic in the Park on Sunday July 26, and return on the following Saturday Aug 1.

**CAMPERSHIPS:** You can sign up online at eScrip to help FPC raise funds year-round for camperships for our kids: <http://escrip.com/>. Once you sign up, you can add the FPCSJ Youth Fund to your eScrip account. Our Group ID is 500021464. If you have any questions, please ask Dawn Imada or visit <http://escrip.com/>.

**PREPARING FOR CAMP:** For campers attending with the group on July 26, Alanna has provided information on transportation, what to pack, medication, etc. If you have not heard from her, please contact her or Travis Ripperger immediately. There is also a lot of great information on [www.westminsterwoods.org/AfterYouHaveRegistered.php](http://www.westminsterwoods.org/AfterYouHaveRegistered.php).

Don't forget those Care Packages for Mail Call! Address with the name of the child, camp (high school, buccaneer, etc) and day to deliver (Monday, Friday, etc). A postcard, photo, or letter from you would be great.

**THEME:** The theme for the 2009 Westminster Woods Summer camp is "Something New!" In Jesus Christ, God gives us new life and a new way to live!

Each year the theme for the year is woven through activities and bible study lessons interpreted in fun ways for each camper age group (entering 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, junior high, or high school). The years T-shirt relates to the theme as well.

A devotional should be available soon for parents or other adults to use. Folks at home can read the same texts that the curriculum is based on and be encouraged to think about the lesson and to pray for the ministry happening at the Woods.

## Tony Daderian Shares a Couple Announcements

After becoming part of the life of FPCSJ for the past 4+ years, and after living in San Jose for decades, I **plan to move** to Southern California by the end of July 2009. My last Sunday with this Church body will be July 26, the Vasona Park picnic and worship service Sunday. I know my departure will sadden some people, and may even emotionally disappoint some, however, believe me, it hurts me more. You will miss only one person, and I will miss so many of you. Among other reasons, *for medical reasons* also I plan to leave for Southern California.

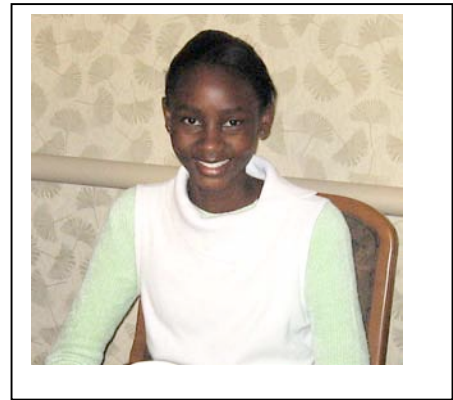
**Now the “good news”**, which I want to share with the church family, is that: I graduated with one more college degree last March 2009. This time in “Speech Communication” major. On June 27, 2009, I participated in the graduation commencement ceremonies, all dressed up with “Cap ‘n Gown” celebrating! At my age, believe me, it is a lot of joy as well as *significant achievement* to graduate with one more college degree!! Especially, graduate with “**High Honors**”, known as: *Magna Cum Laude* distinction, and member of the “**International Honor Student Society**”, known as: *Phi Theta Kappa*. So, rejoice with me and lets pray that God may use this additional college degree, and *developed skills*, for *His glory* and ministry of the Church body...!! Praise the Lord for all **His enablements!!**

## Rebeca Inciarte sends her love

We have reports that our choir director is doing fine, trying to be a blessing to her physical and church family in the rain forest city of Puerto Ordaz. She then goes to the central coast near Valencia for her family reunion, and then Caracas where Eleazar’s sister Estella Inciarte plays the piano at Principe de Paz Presbyterian for the last 45 years.

## Beatrice Kamau named Student of the Year

On Thursday, June 4, 2009 Beatrice was named Student of the Year by her middle school, Peter Burnett Academy. Beatrice was recognized for her academic achievements, citizenship and hard work. Her teacher, Ms. Scott says over the past two years, “Beatrice has found her voice”. Join us in congratulating Beatrice!



## Prayers and Praise

We pray for traveling mercies for Rebeca Inciarte and the Kamau family, and all others who are taking advantage of summer travel opportunities.

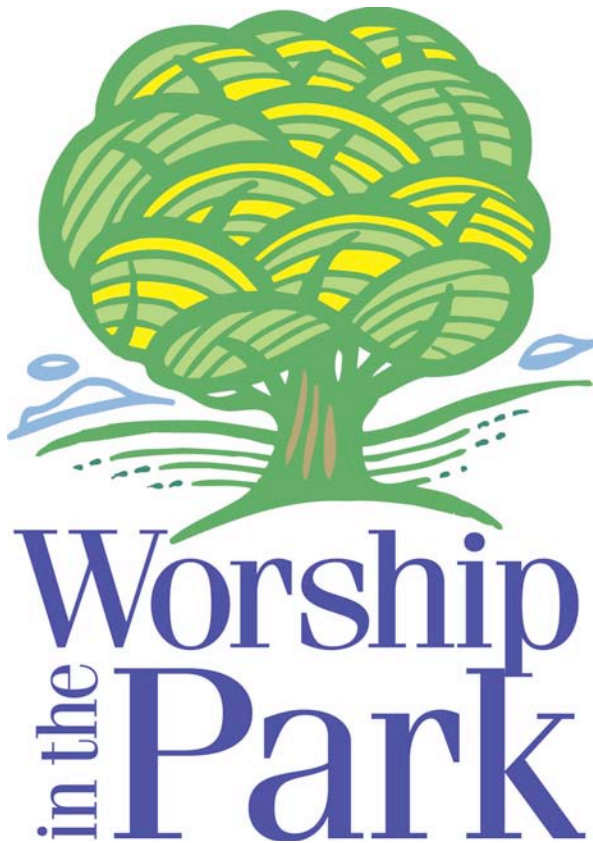
We pray for the children, as they go to camp, that they may become closer to the creator as they spend a week in His beautiful creation.

We pray for all that need healing - including our beloved Pastor Bob. We pray for all that need strength – physical or emotional.

We pray for the family of Daisy Degow in their time of sorrow, and we give praise for Daisy’s life.

We wish the best to our friend Tony as he moves to southern California. We pray for his health and happiness and give thanks for his time with us. We will miss him.

We give thanks for all summer volunteers who allow some of our regular workers to refresh their spirits. We give thanks for the opportunity to discover our spiritual gifts, and pray for discernment in applying them for our church and each other.



**FPC Annual Picnic  
and  
Worship in the Park**

**Sunday July 26, 2009**

**Vasona Park**

**BBQ provided  
Bring a dish  
and a friend  
to share**

**Merry-go-round and train rides!**

**Join Us!!**

## In our Neighborhood and World

### **PACT Event July 14 The Power of Our Stories**

Temple Emanu-El, 1010 University Ave., San Jose is hosting an evening event we are invited to on Tues. July 14 from 6-9 p.m. (dinner included). RSVP to (408) 998-8001. Childcare and English translation is provided, but you must RSVP you need it. The evening will include practice and encouragement on telling our own stories, bolstering our courage and also increasing our ability to listen and take in the stories of others. As we have done with our Parish dinners and more casually during our fellowship time after worship, listening to each other builds relationships, empathy and strengthens our congregation.

### **Just Faith Class and Great Speaker Coming**

JustFaith ([www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org)) is a terrific 30-week course studying the way the bible speaks on social justice and how this affects our personal ministry in a world of woe. Though created by Catholic Charities, it now is an ecumenical course and has been offered at various churches in the past few years drawing participants from a variety of surrounding churches. Pat Plant has led the course twice at the Sunnyvale Church, and plans to organize a downtown class this fall (details to follow).

More exciting than that, the originator of this amazing course and the current Director of JustFaith Ministries Jack Jezreel, is visiting our area on Thursday, **August 6** and will speak at 7 pm at the University of Santa Clara Recital Hall. Pat Plant indicates that whether or not you are interested in the JustFaith class, circle the date and plan to attend Jack's talk - he is one of the best speakers on why people should get busy serving others she has ever heard. See flyers on the event in the church entryway or read online at the Presbytery website: [www.sanjosepby.org/MISSION ADVOCATES.htm](http://www.sanjosepby.org/MISSION%20ADVOCATES.htm).

## Upcoming Events

### Rising Stars Music Program

July 5; Following Worship  
Potluck and Music Recital and Sing-along!  
Fellowship Hall

### Summer Salad Supper Series

July 1, 8, and 22; 6:30 – 9:00 pm  
Shared meal followed by study

### FPC Annual Picnic and Worship in the Park

July 26; 10:30 am  
Vasona Park, Los Gatos

For more information on these events,  
please contact the church office or see  
[www.fpcsj.org](http://www.fpcsj.org). Upcoming activities are also  
printed in the Sunday Worship Bulletin

## Session Notes

At their June meeting:

- Treasurer reported that our liability insurance carrier folded after being unable to recover losses due to Malibu fires – current carrier is UVC (a combination of 3 denominations).
- Individual giving approximately \$5,000 below budget to date.
- Next step in PACT: to start using our assigned staff person and move into PACT process.
- Session/Deacons  
Leadership retreat Aug 15  
9am – 2pm. Anticipate receiving PNC report by 8/8 to allow time to disseminate material to review prior to retreat to provide best discussion at retreat.
- Session also received committee reports and reviewed church calendar.



**Session  
Notes**

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

01 July Virginia Hempel  
Fernando Jordan  
02 July Helen Rodriquez  
05 July Lori Tierney  
14 July Elijah McCoy  
22 July Susan Hyatt  
23 July Stuart Taylor  
24 July Helen Trujillo  
30 July Adrian Maldonado  
Tyson Allen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



Don't  
Forget  
Your  
Pledge  
This Summer

# PASTOR'S CORNER

## They Got it Wrong!

The cover of a recent issue of *Newsweek* carried the headline "The Decline and Fall of Christian America." In it editor Jon Meacham sought to describe the failure of the religious right to return America to the old values. Statistics do show a decline in people seriously practicing their Christian religion. As you might imagine, the reactions from across the spectrum of religious positions was intense. It brought back memories of 1966 when *Time* magazine's cover asked "Is God Dead?"

Some folks responded with the statement that Christianity was always meant to be a minority faith with a countercultural stance. I believe that to be true. When the Religious Right sought to manipulate the political agenda by implying that only the conservative, Republican agenda can truly be faithful to God, they made a serious mistake. Following the Christ transcends religions and once any group claims to be the one and only way to worship or believe they deny the Christ of the gospel.

Instead we need to recognize the Christ in every person! Beyond our judgmental stances, we need to go back to Jesus message which is indeed good news (gospel) to those who have been ostracized or condemned. There are "New" evangelicals who will shape the Christian agenda in coming decades as we experience a cultural and theological shift. If we are to recognize the Christ in ALL people then we need to learn from the millions of Americans who say they are "spiritual but not religious".

Barak Obama shocked some with his comment at a press conference in Turkey that "we do not consider ourselves a Christian nation or a Jewish nation or a Muslim nation. We consider ourselves a nation of citizens who are bound by ideals and a set of values."

Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners*, reminds us that notions of a "Christian America" haven't turned out very well. We have a history of subjugating Native Americans, Black Americans, and other minorities. Who says that just because you are an Anglo or wealthy or dominant that you have the authority to make others submissive. God seeks spiritual change in each of us by the power of Holy Spirit and yet God respects our free will to choose against God's will.

We begin the month of July with the celebration of Independence Day yet we rarely quote the Declaration, which created those thirteen American colonies as independent states free from the government of Great Britain. The second sentence reads: "*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*"

Nowhere did that declaration say that we were a Christian nation. It does state that we are a nation under God. Even our money and our pledge of allegiance state that we are a nation under God. However, were we been a bit more honest, we would agree that certain persons were more equal than others!

We have always enjoyed a sense of domination of some over others. Were we a bit more honest, we would have admitted that we had no intention of giving the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to all. We don't believe that all have a right to adequate and accessible health care. That privilege is for those who can afford it! We feel justified in taking the life of another who has been convicted of murder. When someone is convicted of a felony, certain rights are no longer inalienable. Suppose God commanded that we love our enemies and pray for them?

Last month, I shared an article on "A Social Creed for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" which seeks to call upon each of us who take our faith seriously to cry out for the basic values taught to us by the Christ. We recognize that these are not always popular or politically correct. However, faith has a way of nudging us into challenging injustice each time it is cloaked in self-righteous distortion of the good news which we call gospel.

Let us move boldly and courageously into the new light as faith directs us. We do not exist to merely perpetuate ourselves as a faith community. Rather we are the body of Christ in the world! We are historically counter cultural and challenging to the status quo. That means we do not simply tolerate injustice. But tolerate we do for we perpetuate injustice every time we deny the very rights detailed in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution. We perpetuate injustice whenever we simply accept poverty and hunger. We perpetuate injustice every time we fail to recognize another human being as equal to ourselves in the eyes of God.

Let us have the courage to offer new light despite the discomfort of others. Let us go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

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**OUR MISSION:**

*At First Presbyterian Church, we are a Spirit-led Community of Faith where the life and love of Jesus Christ is felt and shared.*

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**For more information, please contact:**

Reverend Bob Butziger, Pastor  
Karleen Duchscherer, Administrator  
Eleazar and Rebeca Inciarte, Music Directors  
Alanna Spencer, Sunday School Director  
**Church office (408) 297-7212**  
**email: [fpcsj@yahoo.com](mailto:fpcsj@yahoo.com)**  
**Website: [www.fpcsj.org](http://www.fpcsj.org)**

**Newsletter Submissions**

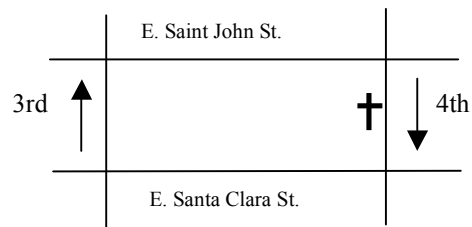
Please submit items to Lori Tierney. Any format works (in person, church mailbox, email [lorimcc@aol.com](mailto:lorimcc@aol.com)). Deadline for the August edition is **July 27, 2009**.

FRIENDS, VISITORS AND  
NEWCOMERS - PLEASE JOIN US  
THIS SUNDAY!

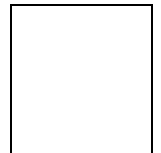
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time: Following Worship

Children attend the first part of the worship service. Following the Children's Message, Sunday School is available for nursery through high school. High school – age children attend worship service on the first Sunday of the month, and a teen discussion other weeks.



First Presbyterian Church  
49 North Fourth Street  
San Jose, CA 95112



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