

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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

Downtown Sounds presents...
The Ugandan Orphans Choir



THE UGANDAN ORPHANS CHOIR In concert

Saturday, April 10, 2010, 7:00 p.m.



No Tickets Required. Suggested donation: \$10.00 each

Westminster Presbyterian Church:
1100 Shasta Avenue (corner of The Alameda and Shasta), San Jose, CA 95126

Don't miss your chance to experience a little bit of Africa when The Ugandan Orphans Choir arrives in San Jose! These talented children are delighting audiences with their dramatic drumming, amazing athletic dancing and beautiful harmonies as they perform traditional African folk songs and other songs they have learned in English.

Bring your family and friends to this free concert for a great encounter of "mission in action!" You will not forget this experience!

About the Ugandan Orphans Choir

The Ugandan Orphans Choir is part of the ministry of Childcare Worldwide. Their goal is to "Help Children Survive and Succeed" through child sponsorship programs. Childcare has ministered in East Africa for many years and has made a difference in the lives of thousands of boys and girls.

About Downtown Sounds is a concert series featuring a variety of music groups and vocal groups in concert at the First Presbyterian Church of San Jose. This special event will take place at our sister church, the Westminster Presbyterian Church. Both churches are comfortable and have great acoustics.



Holy Week

MAUNDY THURSDAY- Thursday, April 1



Join us Thursday at **6:30 p.m.** at FCC (80 S. Fifth St.) for a simple supper as we celebrate Tenebrae and Communion with our First Christian Church friends.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

GOOD FRIDAY - Friday, April 2



The 5th Annual Inter-City worship service will be held at 12:00 noon at the City Hall Rotunda (Santa Clara St. at 5th St.)



EASTER SUNDAY, April 4

Invite friends, neighbors and family to join us in worship on Easter Sunday (10:30 a.m.), as we celebrate Christ's resurrection. A visiting group of singers and instrumentalists will perform the premiere of "Revitalizing Life!" for the opening Anthem. Our children - **Muzik Kidz**, will perform a brief musical number. We will also have guest cello and trumpet soloists. Following the worship service, join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall while the children hunt for Easter eggs.

Our Senior Brown Bag Program

A year ago we became one of the Second Harvest Food Bank centers that packs and distributes bags of healthy food for low-income seniors each Thursday morning. We have **189 participants** most are from Town Park Towers, some are from The Shires, and other nearby residences. Fifteen volunteers help bag the food that is delivered early each Thursday by Second Harvest Food Bank. **You can help** with this program by asking for paper grocery bags for your own groceries and bring those bags to church for this program. - Karleen Duchscherer





CROP HUNGER WALK April 25, 2010

On April 25th, the Bay Area CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk will be held to show our love and active concern for neighbors in need near and

far. The CROP Walk is a long-standing tradition in the Bay Area – this year is the 33rd walk! The CROP walk serves two purposes: To raise awareness about people who must walk to find food, water, firewood, freedom and other necessities of life, and to raise funds to help stop hunger wherever it exists.

75% of CROP Hunger Walk funds will benefit the overall work and ministry of Church World Service -- working around the world to help those in need help themselves through refugee assistance, self-help development programs, advocacy, and disaster relief. And 25% of what we raise will help right here in our local community and benefit Second Harvest Food Bank and Sacred Heart Community Services.

So please mark your calendars and come CROP Walk with us! We have a **GREAT** time! We will carpool over to the walk site following worship.

And if you can't walk on that day, pray for our team or sponsor us. You can also walk on the Web with us. For more information or to sign up to join the team on-line, go to www.crophungerwalks.org/bayarea/. Our team captains are Lori and John Tierney, and they can answer questions as well. Lori and John will be distributing

walker envelopes – please complete the walk permission/release form on the envelope and collect donations from outside the congregation. **Lori and John will also be collecting donations from the congregation for the team in the Narthex April 11 through April 25.**

A NEW LAW TO KNOW ABOUT...



If a patrol car is pulled over to the side of the road, you have to change to the next lane (away from the stopped vehicle) or slow down by 20 mph. Every state except Hawaii and Maryland and the Washington, D.C. has this law. In California, the "Move-over" law became operative on January 1, 2010.
<http://www.moveoveramerica.com/>

A friend's son got a ticket for this recently. A police car (turned out it was 2 police cars) were on the side of the road giving a ticket to someone else. He slowed down to pass but did not move into the other lane. The second police car immediately pulled him over and gave him a ticket. He had never heard of the law. It is a fairly new law that states if any emergency vehicle is on the side of the road, if you are able, you are to move into the far lane. The cost of the ticket was **\$754**, with 3 points on your license and a mandatory court appearance. (see details at the following web address).

www.snopes.com/politics/traffic/moveover.as - Pastor Bob

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Teresa Johnson, Madeline Davis and Brian Jonasson are still crocheting for the many who need comfort and are struggling with life's demands and illness. Brian has four pet blankets ready for delivery to the Animal Shelter. Madeline gave two of her afghans to two ladies at Home-wood Care Center on Thirteenth Street that the families doesn't

visit. They were both grateful for the gift.

At the Mission Committee meeting on March 15th, it was decided to give Madeline \$120 to purchase yarn for Judge Manley's *Fine Reduction* program through the Santa Clara County court system.

To join the Prayer Shawl Ministry, speak with Teresa or Madeline. We crochet most Sundays at Friendship time and have supplies to share.

- Madeline and Teresa



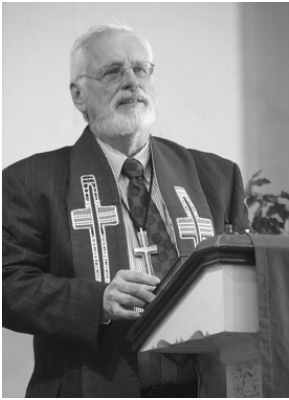
SINGERS WANTED!

We rehearse Sundays at 9:30AM and we welcome new singers to join us. The choir leads the opening Anthem and/or Praise Songs throughout the year. Extra rehearsals are occasionally scheduled as necessary. Children, parents, and grandparents are WELCOME to participate. Join us!

- Eleazar and Rebeka

Session Highlights... from the meeting of March 22

- Agreed that it is time to replace the front door of the church. We are facing mounting costs of repair to keep it working properly. A new door is expensive, but the current problem will cost about 20% of what a new door will cost and still be a very temporary fix. The new door should be in within a couple of weeks.
- A committee will be formed to award camperships to Westminster Woods Summer Camp.
- We have been asked to provide opportunities for people (particularly High School Students) needing to do community service. We need to provide supervision as well as projects – Bob, Ole and Sherri will be looking into this
- Finance committee reported that our income so far this year is behind what was expected, but other than the front door we have kept expenses down.
- We will be hosting a group of High School students experiencing an "Urban Plunge" the week after Easter. They will be exploring various venues downtown under the guidance of Sacred Heart Community Services.



Pastor's Corner Our Culture of Addiction

We have just completed our Lenten series on Addictions with our final session a sharing with Dana Bainbridge, pastor of First Christian Church; about Our Culture of Addiction. This has generated many thoughts on my part. How does the

gospel address a culture of Addiction? What might we do as a faith community in addressing our addictive culture personally and collectively?

The family and the faith community are two primary ways in which we learn our culture. That culture dictates what is real and what isn't, it validates appropriate behavior and what we should be and do and how we are to respond to others. We learn it as naturally we do language. I am particularly impressed by the natural way it is woven into the fabric of our parent's history. In fact, we become hypnotized by cultural mandates.

Among those mandates is the idea that more is better and there is never enough! We are a consumer culture that defines who we are by what we own and what we accomplish. We are rarely satisfied with what we have and who we are. This leads to low self esteem and a great desire for immediate gratification.

Underneath it all are common core characteristics of addiction. We become addicted when we are no longer in control of our responses. Our very being demands the responses we have come to rely on. Scholars tell us that for the wealthiest it is making money. For the middle class it is stress resolution with substances or other patterns of behavior. For those with the least resources, it is sugar or available substances. In fact, sugar has become as detrimental to our health as other drug dependency, leading to a tremendous rise in diabetes.

We have learned about the function of the brain as it seeks pleasure and hard wires our best satisfaction be it chemical or behavioral. All addictions begin as a need for instant relief from underlying stress and pain. Over time that becomes problematic and we develop a dependency on that rather than other effective stress relief. Our increasing tolerance leads to increasing need until we are unable to stop regardless of consequences. Failed attempts to stop result in increased hopelessness, a sense of powerlessness and depression which only requires more relief and the cycle goes on.

There are two main categories of addictions: consumables and behavioral. Consumable addictions have two categories: legal and illegal. In the last five years, the number of prescriptions filled for zanax has gone from 30 million to 38 million. Chemical dependence

has become one of the number one health and social problems facing our population. Among the behavioral addictions are eating and shopping disorders, excessive work and sexual disorders. In fact fifty seven percent of pastors in a recent survey say that addiction to pornography is the most sexually damaging issue to their congregation.

There is currently a war on drugs, obesity and pornography. But those efforts rarely help change our culture. Addictions require a change of brain hard wiring rather than simply being deprived of our choice of responses. That is why the 12 step programs have been so effective. Working the steps with your sponsor requires you to discover the real you that has been hidden beneath your coping attempts. This 180 degree shift in thinking is critical to overcoming the amazing control that our cultural mandates impose.

While the congregation should be the first line of defense in this change process, sadly it is frequently the last place where you can safely bear your soul. People fear judgmental condemnation rather than compassionate understanding. It is hard to just be yourself when you have a religious role to play.

Jesus parables frequently addressed cultural addictions. In fact, his 33 parables consisted of one third of his teachings. The intent was to recognize the difference between living according to the cultural addictions of the world and living in the kingdom of God.

Regarding the addiction of never having enough, he told the story of the farmer whose response to his excellent crops was to build bigger barns. Jesus said: "You fool, you could die today and then what would you have for eternal life." "Don't store up treasures on earth where moth and rust corrupt." "Don't worry about what you eat and what you wear." Trust in God. Be content with what you have. Understand the source of peace and love and hope. "The one without sin, cast the first stone!" The list goes on and on.

Ultimately, we overcome addictions when we recognize that we have a greater source of satisfaction that we can trust. That usually involves relationships with others and with our God. Yet, the change process is long and hard. It means surrendering imbedded ways of addressing the core issues.

Pastor Bob

FPC APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- Maralynn Anderson April 7
- Beatrice Kamau April 11
- Michael Winters April 11
- Jennifer Prang April 12
- Drake Mitchell April 18
- Nancy Garcia April 19
- Antoinette DeBord April 25
- Angelo Hernandez April 25 Age: 14
- Robert Wiepking April 28



OUR MISSION:

At 1st Presbyterian Church, we are a Spirit-led Community of Faith where the life and love of Jesus Christ is felt and shared.

For more information, please contact:

- The 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
- Website: www.fpcsj.org

Newsletter Submissions



Please submit items to Greg Plant. Any format works (in person, church mailbox, email gregplant@comcast.net). Deadline for the **May, 2010** edition is **Thursday, April 29**.

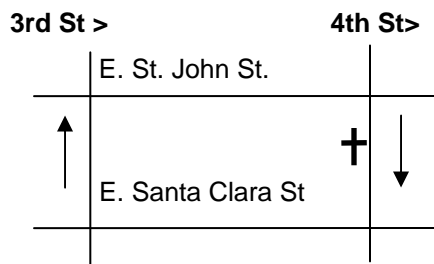
FRIENDS, VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS -

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.



HOLY Week



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

