

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

August 2013

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

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FPC Church Worship in the Park

July 21, Almaden Lake Park



These folks can really party!

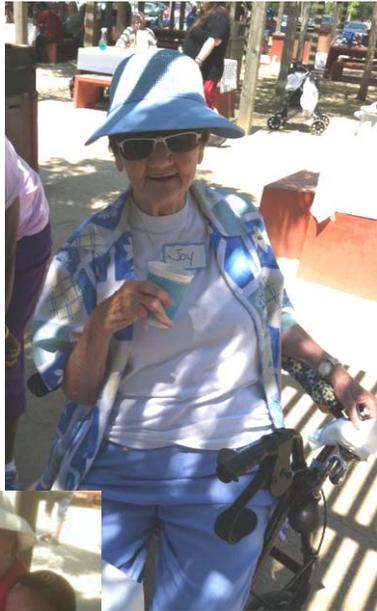


Worship in the Park/ Church Family Picnic

Folks found the park and we were blessed with good picnic weather. All those who needed rides got them. It was a great team effort with good music, a meaningful worship service and yummy food and full tummies. Thanks to the set-up team of the Fukasawas and Lathrops, the musicians who came early to practice and set-up the worship circle, Stephan for hauling chairs, Charlotte for bringing the yummy chicken, to all the salad and dessert chefs and for the many who pitched in with the clean-up.

There was plenty of table talk over lunch and even a few slightly wet folks due to missed water balloons. It was great to continue our annual Worship in the Park tradition. Thanks everyone!

- Judy Lococo, Elder, Connections Team





Sharing's From Sharon

Dear Friends:

I do not believe for one minute that God gives us difficult things to go through. But I do believe that God uses the challenges of this life to teach us and prepare us to walk closer with our Lord.

This past week I was preparing a meditation to share with one of our church committees. I shared the passage from 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 where Paul is talking about weakness and how God's strength is lifted up because of our weaknesses. In other words, what we consider a liability becomes a possibility for God. God takes our weakness and does not let it win but rather uses it to show how much God can accomplish if we allow God to use us just as we are.

This knowledge has enormous ramifications for how we live our lives, both as a church community and as individual Christians. Imagine being able to celebrate our weaknesses. We are grateful for them

because God's grace, God's strength, God's creativity, God's plan becomes visible to the world and all that is accomplished is not because of who we are, but because of who God is.

A Church that is struggling financially becomes a church that does great works for the Kingdom of God---not because it has the money to do great things, but because God has a plan and the church is part of that plan. A person who has a speech impediment becomes a great preacher---not because of their eloquence but because God has a plan and that person is part of God's plan. The possibilities are endless. I challenge us to ask God to help us be grateful for our weaknesses---to see them as opportunities to glorify God---to embrace life challenges as God's possibilities.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Sharon

“Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” ~ 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (NIV)



“Go and find Jesus when your patience and strength give out and you feel alone and helpless. He is waiting for you. Say to him, 'Jesus, you know exactly what is going on. You are all I have, and you know all. Come to my help.' And then go and don't worry about how you are going to manage. That you have told God about it is enough. He has a good memory.”
- Saint Jeanne Jugan, 1792-1879



AUGUST Birthdays!

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Armondo Reyes | August 4 |
| Karleen Duchscherer | August 6 |
| Chris Johnson | August 8 |
| Orpa Doelitzsch | August 11 |
| Jim Lathrop | August 12 |
| Joy Hyatt | August 16 |
| Gerry McKenna | August 16 |
| Rich Stewart | August 22 |



Beautiful rose in bloom in front of FPC
Aug 2, 2013

FPC Mission



Front Door Ministry

In May we made and gave out **1,943** lunches for some **560** people (some of whom came to the door many times).

So far this year we have given out **10,742** lunches. [We gave out **12,510** lunches in 2012.]

Monthly Food Drive for the Hungry People Served by Sacred Heart Community Services

In June we gave **40 lbs.** of useful canned and packaged food to **Sacred Heart Community Services**. So far this year, we have donated **345 lbs.** of food, and **4,600 lbs.** of food since we began our monthly food drive five years ago in June, 2009.



Change for



Change

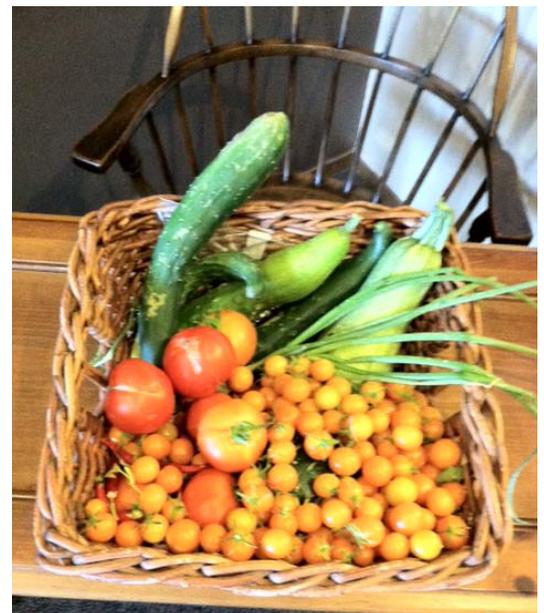
This year's **Change for Change** non-profit group for whom we are raising funds this summer is *Mercy Beyond Borders*.

We will collect our combined savings on Sunday, September 8. Our savings will help save the lives of poor women and girls in South Sudan and Haiti.

Sister Marilyn will be with us on Sun., Oct. 6 for World Communion Sunday.



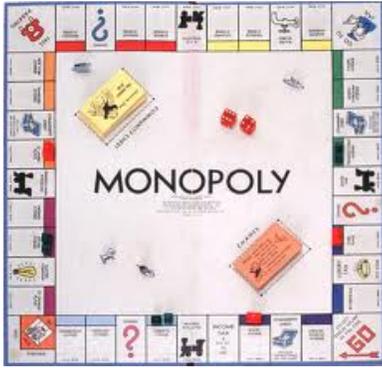
- **OUR MISSION:** *Partnering with displaced women and children in ways that alleviate their extreme poverty*
- **OUR FOCUS:** **Women learn, women matter; all of our projects with women and girls** - whether promoting health, supporting economic development, or providing formal schooling and scholarships - include an educational component.
- **THE PROBLEM:** **Extreme poverty** (defined by the UN as living on less than \$1.25/day) is poverty that kills--for lack of adequate nutrition, shelter, clean water, & medicines. Among all who suffer from extreme poverty, the most vulnerable are women & children displaced by war.
- **THE SOLUTION:** **Extreme poverty can be alleviated**, but only with **external intervention**. In order to get onto the first rung of the ladder of economic development, those trapped in extreme poverty require aid and solidarity. According to economist Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and architect of the UN Millennium Goals, once they have that first leg up, they can and do advance on their own.
- **THE MERCY BEYOND BORDERS APPROACH:** Mercy Beyond Borders uses three methods proven to be effective in alleviating extreme poverty: (1) Educating women and girls, (2) Providing funding for small entrepreneurial projects designed and implemented by the displaced women themselves, and (3) Promoting maternal and child health.



Garden harvest 7.31.13... Yum!

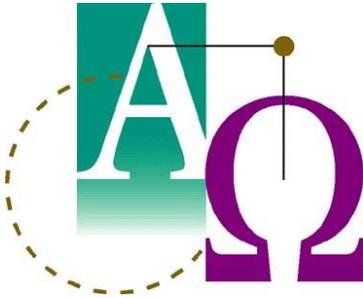


Sr. Marilyn meets with girls in Haiti



Game Night at FPC August 23 (and every 4th Friday through September) 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Game nights are a good time to invite friends and neighbors. Win or lose, there will be free popcorn and drinks, lots of fun and the opportunity to kick back with new and old friends! **Bring your favorite games to play and share!**



Hey, Alphas and Omegas

We're getting into the groove of our two parish "system" with Alphas taking responsibilities for even numbered months and the Omegas the odd-months people.

This means that we take on Worship Leader roles on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, serve as greeters, ushers, fellowship time snack providers (except for 2nd Sunday pizza days) and clean-up afterward. Remember that providing fellowship food can be a team effort with several folks bringing a portion of the offering.



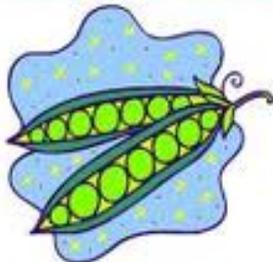
We're collecting empty pill bottles *Recycle them with us!!!*

American Foundation for Children with Aids, a charity to help African medical care, is asking churches around the country to collect empty pill bottles and send them to Africa to hold pills prescribed by doctors to their patients.

You can pull off the label on each bottle or just trust that the medical center that receives them will cover up your label with their label. (Your pill label should not have too much information about you on it other than perhaps your medical record number.)

See the box available for these on Sunday. Save the landfill! Help sick kids get well!!

Give Peas



a chance

