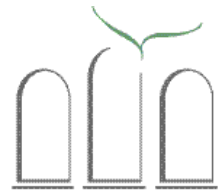


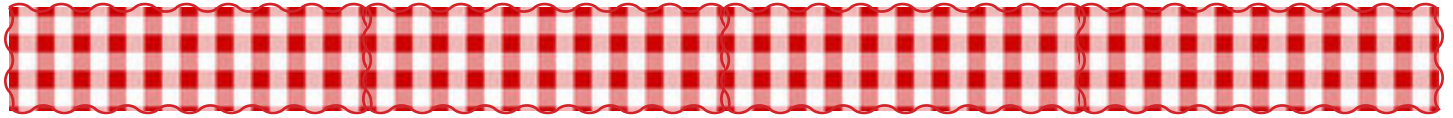
SARATOGA FEDERATED CHURCH
FEDERATED FAMILY



CHURCH ADDRESS: 20390 PARK PLACE, SARATOGA CA 95070

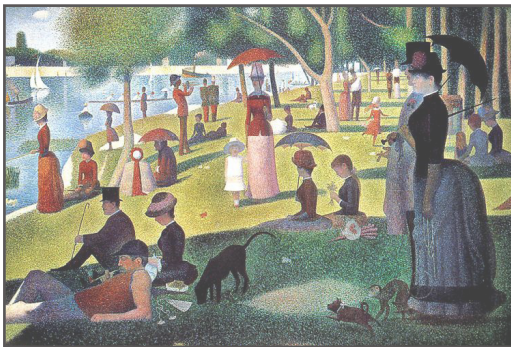
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 14370 SARATOGA AVE., SARATOGA CA 95070

AUGUST 2011



**SARATOGA FEDERATED CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO**

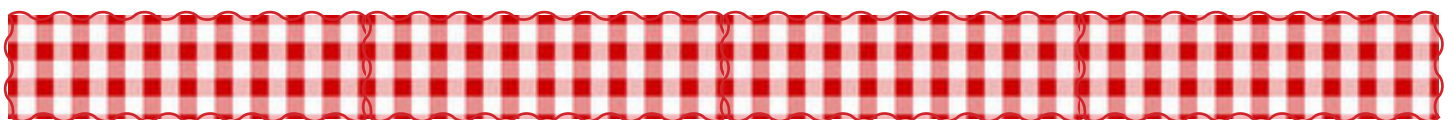
SUNDAY IN THE PARK



**AUGUST 28, 2011
10:00 AM
OAK MEADOW PARK
IN LOS GATOS**

We are busy planning for an all-church service in the park, followed by an “old-fashioned” church picnic. We’ll be barbecuing the main dish (including a vegetarian option) and providing lemonade and water. You should bring the rest of the picnic for your meal. You could even bring enough to share with SFC friends or visitors who decide to join in the fun. There will be activities for all ages, line dancing, games, kids crafts, nature walks, an old fashion hymn sing and all the fun activities that Oak Meadow Park provides.

Oak Meadow Park is located at the corner of Blossom Hill Road and University Avenue in Los Gatos. We have reserved all of the group picnic spaces, including the Bandstand/Gazebo. There is a playground for kids and a large grass field for running around and playing games. Watch for more details about parking options in the Sunday bulletins. Bring a chair or blanket, your family, a picnic lunch and join us for a Sunday in the Park. The worship service will begin at 10:00 am, the picnic starts at 11:15 am with planned activities after that. We are excited about spending time with all of you in this beautiful setting on Sunday, August 28.



IET/ELDER UPDATE

BY BOB PITMAN

Saratoga Federated Church's current Five Year Plan is motivated by seven vision values that we have been communicating for the past year. Copies of the 5-year vision "From the Inside Out" are available at the Hospitality Center and on our website. Over the past year more than 40 ministry initiatives have been pursued in an effort to fulfill these vision values. These ministry initiatives are great acts of worship and many of you in our church family have participated. Many individuals have been blessed and our heavenly Father has been glorified.

In last month's Federated Family, Sally Bryant authored a wonderful article which highlighted these initiatives. The Elders would like to affirm these great works and provide a few additional details.

Vision Value Number Two

Authentic Community: We desire a strong sense of internal community, united in our worship of God and our need for his grace. We want to practice an active hospitality that creates a place of intimacy and acceptance.

Ministry Initiative: Care Ministries

The Care Deacons provided attention to the fellowship needs of our senior members. They worked to restore and preserve the best aspects of programs developed when we had a paid Director of Senior Ministries. The Care Deacons hosted a Life Enrichment Series. These seminars were well attended. All seniors in the congregation (and some in the community) were invited.

Vision Value Number Three

Joyful Community Service: We want to be motivated by genuine love for our neighbors with overflowing care and service. We want to be a vibrant presence in our community that makes the love of God evident to all.

Ministry Initiative: Outreach

Forums on financial survival, real estate, bankruptcy, unemployment self-care and reemployment were offered by us and/or in partnership with the CSIX Job Seekers network. These forums were well attended by members of our congregation as well as many of our neighbors in the surrounding community.

Vision Value Number Five

Inter-generational Faith Family: We desire to be a church where children, youth and adults are connected with each other. We long to be a church where people of all ages are valued, encouraged and challenged by each other.

Ministry Initiative: Inter-generational Worship

We will promote family ministry as an essential priority in our church culture, promoted by each of our core ministries. We will do this by featuring children, teens and seniors in worship services so all age groups are represented on Sunday mornings.

The Kids Choir sang in the Sanctuary once a month, November through May, and presented a musical in May during the worship services. Our youth were involved in singing, reading Scripture and sharing on Mexico Sunday.

The Council of Elders and our staff are busy this summer evaluating our progress over the past year and setting priorities and goals for the coming year. In the next few months plans for the coming year will be presented to the congregation. Opportunities for everyone to participate in the ministries of this church will be made available. In the meantime, please be in prayer about how God might use your time, talent and treasure to increase and edify his church.



SUMMER PREACHING SERIES

"Anticipating God's Future Faithfulness"

This series expresses personal visions for our future. Worship will feature reflections by our people on their journeys. Stories of personal growth will be shared. (Who I was, and who I am becoming.)

August 7

Sally Bryant

"Christ Has Set Us Free"

Galatians 5:1, 13-15; 1 Peter 2:15-11

August 14

Arvin Engelson

"Living in the Promised Land"

Leviticus 20:24-26; Matthew 6:10
Ephesians 4:1-3, 21-24, 5:1-2, 15-17

August 21

Bill Allison

"Where Do We Go From Here?"

Joshua 24:15

August 28

All-Church Service and Picnic at Oak Meadow Park

"God's Faithfulness, Our Transformation"

GET REAL ABOUT REST

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SABBATH

This year, the Elders have selected an intriguing annual theme: Get Real! The Elders and pastoral staff will encourage and challenge everyone in the coming season to get real about the things that matter most: our relationship with God and with one another. Each month, the pastoral staff will explore one aspect of what it means to Get Real! We pray these articles will draw you into an ever closer relationship with your Creator and Redeemer.

While the official launch of this series will be September 11, we begin the process this month by exploring what it means to get real about rest, to live a life marked by a Sabbath rhythm. In our ever-so-busy lives, rest, relaxation and restoration often seem like a waste of time. The whole experience of being alive becomes a communal chorus of “I am so busy.” Our busyness affects how we relate to our family, raise our children, solve problems, react to unexpected events and celebrate and mourn with one another. Thomas Merton spoke of a “pervasive form of contemporary violence... that is activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence.”

If, as Merton suggests, busyness is a form of violence, then perhaps the antidote to that violence is the restorative healing that comes from rest. Without rest, we respond to life in survival mode. The idea of a “Sabbath rest” began in Genesis 2:2-3, when God rested on the seventh day from all the work he had done. Creation wasn’t finished until God created Sabbath rest. God rested not because he was tired but to savor and delight in the goodness of his creation. As Walter Brueggemann said, “God is not invested in perpetual productivity.” And as those who are made in the image of God, we are to practice rest.

Under the New Covenant, the idea of Sabbath rest is transformed into something new, often described as the “Lord’s day,” celebrating Christ’s resurrection, remembering the day he conquered death and became Lord of all, and anticipating the return of Christ to consummate his victory. Perhaps if we were to consecrate a time set apart for God, we might hear

God’s voice more clearly. We might find ourselves more in tune with what God has created us to do and to be. The inner voice of wisdom (the indwelling Holy Spirit) might be heard with greater clarity.

To live a Sabbath rhythm speaks of living life indwelled by the Holy Spirit.

All life requires a rhythm of rest.

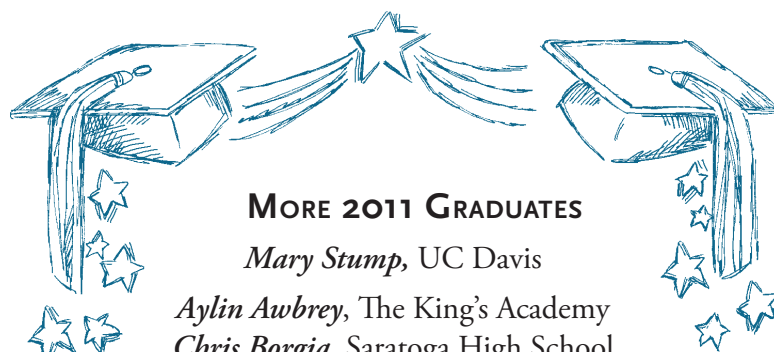
To live a Sabbath rhythm means remembering God’s mighty works

in our lives; seeing, tasting, hearing, experiencing and appreciating his creation. Author Dan Allender notes that Sabbath was given to humanity before the fall of humanity into sin (Genesis 1) and as a commandment (Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5) that preceded the entry into the Promised Land. Sabbath remembers creation and anticipates re-creation. It is an eschatological event that prefigures a sin-free, glory-bound world. As we remember Eden in the Sabbath celebration, we also imagine and anticipate the renewed and redeemed garden that is to come.

I confess that I am still learning this special rhythm. Perhaps this is true for you as well. In ballroom dancing, I learned dance steps often follow a pattern of “quick, quick, slow, together.” That sounds like a pretty good Sabbath rhythm to me. May we work hard, and may we pause to celebrate God and his amazing work in us and our community.

Sally Bryant, Pastor of Adult Ministries

FROM OUR PASTORS



MORE 2011 GRADUATES

Mary Stump, UC Davis

Aylin Awbrey, The King’s Academy
Chris Borgia, Saratoga High School
Megan Brading, Saratoga High School
Ryan Tarter, Lynbrook High School
Rick Wilson, Saratoga High School

ADULT MINISTRY NEWS

BY SALLY BRYANT

I hope this summer season is filled with all your favorite things – and times of Sabbath rest! As you read this newsletter, I am on a missions trip in Malawi and Zambia, working with Empower International Ministries to strengthen marriage and families.

The following events are coming up in August in Adult Ministries.

Adult Education:

Jeff Davis continues his class on the book of Hebrews. The last class is on September 4. Starting September 11, Tom Priest will teach on the book of Galatians at 9:00 am in the library.

Family Event:

Bring your family to the San Jose Giants game on August 20 at 6:00 pm sponsored by Men’s Ministries. Tickets are available on the courtyard Sundays through August 7 and are just \$9.

Women’s Ministry:

The next Craft Night is Friday, August 12. Contact Kim Rolston for more information at Kim.Rolston@netapp.com

The Monday Moms Small Group resumes Monday, August 8 at 9:30 to 11:30 in room 111. Childcare is provided.

Save the Date:

Women’s Contemplative Retreat October 7-8 at Mercy Center in Burlingame – stay tuned for more information.

Focus on Prayer:

Our prayer time will resume on September 1 at 6:30 pm in the library. Semi-monthly meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday at 6:30 pm and the third Sunday at 4:00 pm.



*September 2011 Newsletter
Deadline
Wednesday, August 10*



PASTORAL SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

BY ROB STUMP

The Search Team is continuing to work through the summer months – all shore leave has been canceled. We are proceeding full speed ahead.

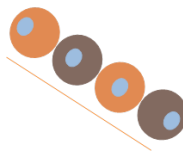
We are in the process or have considered over 30 candidates to date. Fifteen candidates are currently under evaluation by the Search Team. Seven are now receiving initial contact from us. Three interviews were conducted last month, and five candidates are no longer under consideration.

Some may say, only 30 candidates? Keep in mind that we are seeking candidates through a referral process not an advertisement-based process. That is why I can honestly report to you that the candidates under consideration are high quality and high caliber. This continues to be confirmed as we work through the search process.

It is not too late to submit candidate ideas to the search team by emailing search@saratogafederated.org or contacting any of the team members.

When do we expect to have our Teaching Pastor installed? While in God’s hands, there are some practical considerations that will drive placement and arrival of our new pastor. With that in mind, the earliest we could have a new pastor in place is this fall. More likely, it will be after the first of the year.

Please pray for our new pastor, the Search Team and SFC leadership as we all navigate this process. Specifically, as we enter this period of interviews, please pray for discernment for all that are involved.



REFLECTIVE JOURNEY

If you have suffered a loss of any kind – bereavement, divorce, health, employment – please join us for the next Reflective Journey. We will spend time in meditation and fellowship and experience the power of seeing how far we have come. Refreshments will be served.

Our next time together will be Saturday, August 20, from 10:00-11:30 am in Douglass Hall. If you have questions or want more information, please contact Barbara Silverstein, Grief Ministry Coordinator, at barbara@saratogafederated.org or (408) 996-0142.



A NEW SEASON OF MUSIC INCLUDING CHRISTMAS!

Please make note of these dates –

Wednesday, September 7

Choir and Orchestra rehearsals begin

Saturday, September 17 - Christmas in September

A first peek at the Christmas music

Wednesday, September 21 - Kids Choir starts



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

BY **DEBBIE STURM**

The 2011/2012 school year is almost here! Where did the summer go!

The new Children's Ministry Sunday school year begins on September 11. If you love kids and would like to be part of sharing the love of Jesus with them, please contact Debbie Sturm at (408) 867-3456 or debbie@saratogafederated.org. We need help with "crowd control," substitute teachers and special events to name a few opportunities to serve. We are always looking for people to join in the fun!

Parents of children ages 3 months through fifth grade, please be on the look out for our 2011/2012 Children's Ministry registration form. We like to make sure contact information is correct and up to date for every child in our program, so if you have any changes to your contact information, please look for a bright blue form and share those corrections with us. Thank you for returning the forms to your child's Sunday school teacher as quickly as possible.

BRIDGE BUILDERS RESPITE DAY

The next respite event will be on Saturday, September 10, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. (Volunteers from 8:15 am to 1:30 pm.) This respite day is designed for families with special needs children and their siblings.

Families must pre-register for this event. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up as early as possible. Contact Debbie Lillo at bridgebuilders@saratogafederated.org or (408) 252-4160.



VICTORIOUS LIVING CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Winning in every area of life
presented by Rohi Christian Church,
September 16 & 17, 2011

The Victorious Living Christian Women's Conference is a two-day event, Friday night and all day Saturday, focusing on educating, encouraging and inspiring women of God to live victoriously in their daily lives for Jesus Christ.

Learn practical truths from dynamic guest speakers: Pastor Sheyna Heard, Dr. Jasmin W. Scularck, actress Tasha Smith and many others. There will be general sessions and several workshops offered throughout the weekend. The event also features a time of worship with internationally acclaimed gospel musician Martha Munizzi and many other talented musicians from the Bay Area.

You can attend both days for \$39 if you register before August 1. After August 1, the price is \$59. Register online at <http://www.victoriousliving2011.com>. If you have questions or would like to be a volunteer (volunteers receive a free ticket) please contact Terri Goehner at (408) 406-0259 or terri_goehner@goehnergroupp.com. This event will be held at Church on the Hill, 500 Sands Avenue, San Jose 95125.

MEN'S MINISTRIES SFC NIGHT AT THE SAN JOSE GIANTS GAME



This inter-generational church event is Saturday evening, August 20 at 6:00 pm. The Men's and Student Ministries are sponsoring this fun outing. It is a unique opportunity to be with our SFC family and friends. Tickets are only \$9, and will be available on Sundays through August 7, on the courtyard.

MEN'S BREAKFAST SERIES BEGINS SEPTEMBER 24

George Neau, the chancellor and founder of the School of Urban Missions (SUM) in Oakland CA, will be the speaker at our kick-off breakfast on Saturday, September 24. SFC has a rich and long-standing relationship with the young men and women of SUM, who are on fire for Christ. Sign up on the courtyard beginning in September.

Celebrations!

THANK YOU

Michele Brading, Nancy Commins, Barbara Goedjen, Veronica Miller, Maelynn Sutterlin, Lois Tomlin and Jane Wadlow for their faithful volunteer service to the church office.

From Judy Stokes and family:

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support during the recent loss of Judy's grandson.

CELEBRATING AN Anniversary

- 67 years - *Joe & Muriel Russell*, August 8
- 63 years - *Robert & Phyllis Culp*, August 15
- 58 years - *Dave & Ann Fisher*, August 8
- 54 years - *George & Donna Lee*, August 10
- 54 years - *Russ & Jean Floyd*, August 16
- 54 years - *Ted & Elaine Clabeaux*, August 30
- 51 years - *Larry & Carla Bjork*, August 20
- 51 years - *Keith & Dorothy Fraker*, August 24
- 50 years - *Don & Gale Sturdevant*, August 19
- 47 years - *Carl & Sharon Liljenstolpe*, August 15
- 46 years - *Ron & Dianne Shanholtz*, August 14
- 41 years - *David & Jennifer Austin*, August 8
- 39 years - *Dave & Mary Norton*, August 26
- 38 years - *Jeff & Kathy Nickel*, August 4
- 34 years - *Chris & Barb Clark*, August 20
- 33 years - *Ed & Laura Laughlin*, August 12
- 33 years - *Dick & Lynn Rowe*, August 19
- 32 years - *Erick & Debbie Sturm*, August 4
- 32 years - *Jeff & Becky Davis*, August 4
- 28 years - *Jeff & Barbara Cage*, August 23
- 26 years - *Marty & Miriam Von Raesfeld*, August 17
- 19 years - *Greg & Pam Holsen*, August 22
- 18 years - *Don & Susan Campbell*, August 28
- 4 years - *Ben & Diane White*, August 11

Celebrations shares events and milestones of our church family. If you have a wedding, birth, baptism, new job, graduation, anniversary, etc. to share, please send the information to Nicki at the church office, (408) 867-1000 or nicki@saratogafederated.org.



WE'RE MOVING

Bill & Diane Allison
1680 Andover Lane
San Jose, CA 95124

Sam & Lisa Owen
2423 NW 35th Street
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Please let us know if you move or have changes to your contact information. Be assured this information will be used only for SFC business. Send your changes to Kathy Hensley at kathy@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000, or go to the COMMUNITY tab on our website to update your personal profile. Thank you.



The following letter was received from Advent Ministries, the Local Outreach recipient of our 2011 Lenten Offering.

To Our Wonderful Friends at Saratoga Federated Church,

Thank you so much for selecting Advent to be a recipient of Saratoga Federated Church's Lenten offering and for allowing us to come and speak to your congregation about our transportation needs. In Advent's 25 years of ministry, we haven't had any greater friends than those at SFC.

We are so humbled by your generous gift of \$25,000 for the purchase of a new (or slightly used) eight-passenger van for our group home program. We are currently on the hunt for just the right vehicle, and as soon as we find it, we will send you a picture of the van in action!

A vehicle in good repair is our most valuable asset, next to our homes. The last van that SFC purchased for our program transported Advent's kids over 177,000 miles. That is over 1,500 AA and NA meetings, 2,000 individual and family counseling sessions, 1,350 trips to school and 316 field trips! Each one of those trips has brought our kids that much closer to realizing a life without drugs and alcohol.

Advent is blessed to have friends like you partnering with us to bring hope, healing and Christ's love to suffering children. Thank you and God bless you all!

In Christ,
Jennifer Morrow
Director of Resource Development