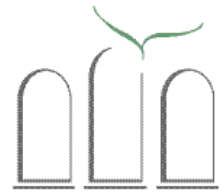


SARATOGA FEDERATED CHURCH
FEDERATED FAMILY



CHURCH ADDRESS: 20390 PARK PLACE, SARATOGA CA 95070
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 14370 SARATOGA AVE., SARATOGA CA 95070

JANUARY 2012

CELEBRATING 100 HOMES BUILT IN 13 YEARS
MEXICO MISSION 2012

APRIL 14-21, 2012

High School Student Information Meeting: January 8, 10:45 am (During Youth Group)

Adult and Families Information Meeting: January 8, 11:45 am to 12:15 pm

We are excited to announce our 13th trip to Mexico is coming. We will be building our 100th house for a family in need. More 650 than people from our church and community have participated at least once in our house-building projects with Amor Ministries.

Amor meets the tangible needs of the poor in order to share the love of Jesus. They help families stay together by providing homes, water filters, food, clothing, backpacks filled with school supplies, winter relief items like blankets and warm jackets and Christmas gifts. Amor works with local pastors in the communities where we build houses. When we leave after a week, the people we served are in the good hands of pastors who continue to love and support them. Many come to faith as a result of this ministry.

The Lord continues to touch the lives of every team member who chooses to set time aside to participate in this mission opportunity. Here are a couple of personal experiences I'd like to share with you:

"This week I was blessed to meet two of God's angels in the form of two young Mexican boys, Carlos and Juan. They did not live anywhere close to our worksite, but seemed to appear whenever extra work needed to be done. They helped with all that they could and raised everyone's spirits, but the funny thing is they never asked for anything in return. Although they said they did not know the mother of our house, the last time I saw them, they were hugging Maria! A sense of peace overtook her, as she knew that the love of God would always be with her and her family." -Kirin Kumar

"More than any other activity I participate in during the year, this trip exposes me to the youth and teens of our church, and I am blown away with the maturity, insight and care they demonstrate - spiritually, emotionally, physically. This makes me confident that the next generation is ready and capable to lead our church, our businesses, our government or any institution to even greater heights. Here's to an amazing week that was made possible by not only those who went, but those who helped us prepare, prayed for us and supported us." -Carl D'Costa

Would you like to help us make a difference? Are you **READY** to make a difference? If you are, please consider helping us in the following ways:

- Join our team on the trip and experience a great blessing for you and your family.
- Give of your time. Help us prepare in the weeks before we leave and on the Saturday we return home. For more information check out our church website under Mexico 2012 or better yet, come to the Mexico information meeting on Sunday, January 8 at 11:45 am in Richards Hall.
- Give of your financial resources. You can fill out the envelopes in the pews and designate Mexico 2012 on your checks at any time.
- Support our silent auction on Sunday, March 4. We need help organizing and we need you to attend.

Thank you for your support!
Tim Galleher



STICKY FAITH: ONE YEAR LATER

For the last year, we have been part of Fuller Seminary's Sticky Faith cohort. As a result, we have developed a new multi-ministry approach to developing sticky faith, a faith that sticks for a lifetime, in our children and young people. Each ministry at SFC has offered ministry-specific offerings designed to foster one or more aspects of sticky faith. We've collaborated with 16 other churches, getting energy and ideas and learning that it's great to be together.

Since January, 2009, more than 1,000 people have heard from Chap Clark and Kara Powell about the need for sticky faith. Many have become engaged in the following actions which help create a faith that sticks for a lifetime: a ratio of five adults engaged with every teenager; getting teens involved with discipling and training younger children; having parent-child faith conversations; students understanding and engaging in social justice and developing intergenerational aspects of church.

As we hear people using the language of sticky faith, we realize that we all are engaged in helping our kids. Small groups mobilized to "Adopt a College Student," helping develop those crucial five-to-one ratios of caring adults engaged in the lives of college students. The care deacons sponsored a seminar for single parents. The "Christmas in Saratoga" program was intergenerational. Empty nester parents are staffing a "Parents Night Out" so that parents can enjoy a carefree evening. Parents, children and other adults created lovely Advent wreaths together over lunch. Intergenerational teams helped clean up and beautify our city at the All Church Service Day in November.

We are planning for 2012 now. A parenting class will be offered in February. The Lent Soup Supper on February 17 will create a family table where all ages are welcomed. The well-known author and speaker Jim Burns will speak at SFC March 11 on "Confident Parenting," giving an approach to faith-based parenting. The Mexico house building trip (always a wonderful intergenerational event) will build its 100th house... and more! Watch your email for more information and updates.

Where do how YOU fit in? Pray, and talk to Tim Galleher, Ruthie Koch or Sally Bryant about ways to get

CONFIDENT PARENTING SEMINAR

FEATURING: JIM BURNS, PHD

DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2012

TIME: 2:00 - 5:00 PM

LOCATION: SANCTUARY

TICKETS: \$10

Registration available online at bitly.com/confidentparenting2012 or on Sundays in the courtyard beginning January 15.

This seminar offers a comprehensive approach to developing a healthy, God-honoring parenting philosophy.

Topics that will be covered are:

- Finding replenishment for over-crowded lives
- Overcoming negative family patterns
- Creating a grace-filled home
- Communicating with affection, warmth and encouragement
- Raising kids who love God

WHO IS DR. JIM BURNS?

Jim Burns, Ph.D. is president of HomeWord and Executive Director of the HomeWord Center for Youth and Family at Azusa Pacific University. He is the radio host of "HomeWord with Jim Burns," heard on over 800 releases a day around the country. Jim speaks to thousands of people around the world every year. He is a three-time Gold Medallion Award-winning author and has written books for parents, students, children, youth ministry and church leaders. Jim has provided over 1.5 million resources in print in over 20 languages including: *Faith Conversations for Families*; "Teenology": *How to Raise Great Teens*; *Closer: Devotions to Draw Couples Together*; *Confident Parenting*; *The Purity Code* and *Creating an Intimate Marriage*. Jim and his wife, Cathy, and their three daughters, Christy, Rebecca and Heidi, live in Southern California.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This seminar is for parents, grandparents, teachers and educators who work with children and students of all ages.

GET REAL ABOUT “SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES”

The Jewish and Christian scriptures share many assumptions. One core premise is that all God’s creatures have a purpose. Our chief purpose is to know, love, enjoy, worship and serve God.

These are big thoughts. All refer to the health, priority and genuineness of our relationship with our Maker. Each of our “reasons for being” has a growth process. And, if we desire the outcome, we will be interested in the process.

There is a stunning simplicity in the dynamics of spiritual growth. Progress in any single aspect of spiritual maturity feeds and fuels our progress in other aspects. Growth in any dimension of our “true purpose” expands that aspect of our humanity and inspires our desire to honor and please God.

Each life-ordering spiritual experience gives birth to another. Knowledge of God begets wisdom about life. Love for God begets core mental health. Enjoyment of God begets a deep happiness. Worship of God begets grateful contentment. Service to God begets meaningful fulfillment. And on it goes, until these cumulative momentary epiphanies lead us to a state of reverent wonder.

This is, of course, neither automatic nor accidental. Over centuries spiritual guides and mentors have called our attention to those disciplines which foster growth in the soul. They have prescribed specific habits for the heart and rhythms for life.

These include interior practices. We are taught to confess our moral weaknesses that we may experience divine forgiveness. We are encouraged to bring our cares and questions to God in prayer that we may find comfort and direction. We are invited to hear the Spirit speak to us in the Bible that we may be enlightened about life and set free by one truth after another. We are told to be wise stewards over our giftedness and resources that we may participate in the work of God’s kingdom.

Many prescribed “spiritual disciplines” are meant to be practiced in community with others. Each gathers momentum when practiced with others. And all of them, as they mature, compel the people of God to

believe and act and worship together. God forms us and forms a family of faith at the same time.

Here is our immediate challenge: In the modern West we have saturated lifestyles. We all get busy and distracted. We all become anxious and preoccupied.

Our pages lack margins. So, if we hope to grow spiritually, we need three conscious resolves going into the new year. We must “take time for God,” “make space for others” and “practice care for our souls.” Simply ask yourself (as I am asking myself): When and with whom will I pursue these priorities?

Arvin Engelson
Pastor of Care Ministries

FROM OUR PASTORS

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

After many months of prayer, hard work, and uncountable hours of sermon viewing, the search committee is in the final phase of our candidate search. We hope to present the final candidate to the congregation in the next four to six weeks. Based on the time sensitive nature of the process, we are announcing plans for a special congregational meeting on Sunday, January 29 or Sunday, February 12. Two dates are being communicated to provide some scheduling flexibility for the final candidate and SFC. This notice is being given to comply with SFC’s bylaws requiring that notice be provided to the congregation at least twenty-one days prior to the date of the meeting. We hope to avoid any unnecessary delay in approving our new pastor by providing this notice in the Federated Family.

As we go through these important upcoming days, we continue to ask for your faithful and diligent prayers for wisdom, discernment, and unity. We also pray for all of the final candidates. These are people of uncommon depth and experience and we pray that God will make clear his path and calling on their ministries. These are exciting days! Keep tuned and keep praying!

ADULT MINISTRIES UPDATE

Adult Classes:

Join us in the library at 9:00 am to hear Jeff Davis teach on the book of Esther. Did you know that 2,500 years ago a plan was put in place to kill all the Jews in the known world? Come and learn how a sovereign God miraculously intervened through the use of a courageous young woman who risked her life for the sake of her people. Learn how these ancient people struggled with the same issues we do in the 21st century and discover what we can learn from their actions to be effective witnesses for God in Silicon Valley. Bring your Bible and join us for this entertaining and interactive class. The class runs January 22 to February 26.

Mark Your Calendars:

Women's Retreat February 24-26 at Mount Hermon

This year's retreat, "Real Encounters with God," will feature eight stories. Four stories will be from scripture and four will be from women within our congregation. Join us for a very special time together with God and one another. Stay tuned for more information.

All Church Prayer Times

Join us on Thursday, January 5, at 6:30 pm and Sunday, January 15, at 4:00 pm for an hour of prayer for our church. All are welcome! We meet in the library.

Monday Moms Resumes January 9

Join us on Mondays from 9:30-11:30 am for coffee and conversation with other moms. Our new study will encourage us to explore and share our life story. Each of our stories are unique. Your life story, like the life stories of Abraham, Moses, David, Ruth and Esther, is part of God's redemptive story that stretches back thousands of years and forward into a future beyond our imagination. As we look at our stories, we will discover God at work in our lives. For more information, contact Dorothy Araldi at (408) 828-1667 or Stacey Lewis at (408) 687-5905.

Women's Craft Night

Friday, January 13, 7:00 – 10:00 pm in Room 105 You may bring whatever craft you are working on for a great evening of fun with other women. Newcomers always welcome. For more information, contact Kim Rolston at kim.rolston@netapp.com.



A New Year and a New Group

New small group forming: Christy Rohig and Brent Fairbanks, recent new members of SFC, are starting a small group for families with children who aren't already in a small group. They are planning to meet Sundays from 4:00-6:30 pm (frequency to be determined at the first meeting) starting January 22 at their home in Saratoga (11970 Walbrook Drive.) Email brentf@gmail.com or call 408-252-4413 if you are interested or want more information. A pot luck dinner and fellowship will follow around 6:00 pm

Thank You for Supporting our College Students!

Families, singles, small groups, women's circles have all come together to support our college students through prayers, cards and small gifts during this school year. We have received such a positive reaction to this new "Sticky Faith" program. Thank you emails, notes and prayer requests are coming back from our students. If you are supporting a student and have a story to share, please email it to camillechapman@sbcglobal.net. We would love to share these with our SFC family.

And Next...Easter

Yes, we have just finished Christmas but are already planning SFC's Lenten activities. This year Lent begins Wednesday, February 22. The small group team is planning, as we have in the past several years, to start the season with a soup supper on February 17. More information will be given in the February Fed Family and the bulletins. Please save the date. The soup supper with fellow members of our SFC family and a short service in the chapel are a good preface to this holy season.

Stay tuned for more information on the church-wide Lenten small group study. Experience the Good News of Easter through participation in this Lenten study!



JANUARY GO & TELL'S

January 15 - *Chris and Maxie Kamalski*

January 22 - *Child Hope International from Nepal*



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

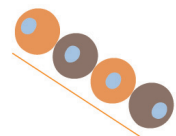
I am so excited to see January come around because this is the time of year when we get to start planning for Vacation Bible School 2012! Our destination this year is SonRise National Park where we will learn that Jesus is our all-powerful guide and Savior. I really believe that VBS can be a great time for our children as well as our teen and adult volunteers to build and cement their friendships with other families from our church and community.

If you would like to strap on your binoculars and be a part of the "scout team" to help build this year's VBS from the ground up, please contact me (ruthie@saratogafederated.org) or Robyn Swan (robyn@saratogafederated.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

Ruthie Koch
Interim Director of Children and Family Ministries



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, February 11, 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.



February 2012 Newsletter
Deadline
Wednesday, January 11



MEN'S MINISTRIES

MEN'S RETREAT - MAN UP

JANUARY 27-28, 2012

Man Up: Getting Real with Sex, Money and Power



Are you feeling overwhelmed with life's pressures and temptations? Do you find it difficult to be a righteous man in a world which emphasizes sex, money, and power? Are you seeking a deeper relationship with Christ? Then join us for a time of spiritual growth and physical refreshment at the SFC Men's Retreat January 27-28, 2012.

We are delighted to have David Chae as our featured speaker. David, a sought after conference speaker, currently serves as the City Catalyst for Vision360 in the South Bay/Peninsula Area (<http://vision360.org/explore/our-team>.) He and the Vision360 board of directors have been tasked with planting 200 churches in the South Bay and Peninsula Area by 2020. The best part of Dave's job is working collaboratively with ministry and business leaders and domain leaders to transform the Bay Area through church planting and discipleship. For the past 10 years he served as lead pastor at the Great Exchange Covenant Church. Dave and his ministry team planted four churches in the Bay Area, started an orphanage in Kenya, funded a road in Thailand, built a church in Cambodia and placed a full-time missionary in China.

Dave and his wife, Helen, have three children, ages 9-16. Dave received his masters of divinity from Talbot Seminary. He also has a masters degree in education from Loyola College in Maryland. He did his undergraduate work in history at Cornell University.

Retreat Details:

This year's retreat will be at Mission Springs Conference Center in Scotts Valley. Check in is Friday, January 27, 2012, beginning at 4:00 pm. The early registration price is \$145 if paid by January 15, 2012. The price rises to \$155 if paid later. The price includes lodging, four meals, snacks and the exciting program. The retreat will end Saturday evening, January 28, 2012, after dinner. Sign up Sundays at the Men's Ministries patio table or online at saratogafederated.org.

Celebrations!

A Huge Thank You to each person who took part in making "Christmas in Our Town" such a positive and memorable event! Providing homemade cookies, making sack lunches for the cast and crew, ushering, greeting, helping direct traffic in the parking lots, helping to build and decorate the set, singing, acting, directing, helping with costumes and props...the list could go on and on. Almost 300 people took part in some way. Each one of you is appreciated and valued. God bless you one and all!

Bill & Diane Allison

CELEBRATING AN *Anniversary*



- 58 years - *Ken & Muriel Spring*, January 30
- 52 years - *Sam & Shirley Sells*, January 8
- 47 years - *Randy & Marjo Spencer*, January 31
- 44 years - *Tom & Weegi Wilson*, January 27
- 42 years - *John & Diana Bond*, January 24
- 35 years - *Steve Flaten & Diane Bogart*, January 15
- 33 years - *Tim & Nancy Coad*, January 27
- 30 years - *Bill & Diane Allison*, January 9
- 29 years - *Bob & Nicki Mierzejewski*, January 22
- 28 years - *Bob & Jeanne Pitman*, January 14
- 18 years - *Jim & Cheryl Bailey*, January 26
- 1 year - *Josh & Lacey Bruce*, January 2
- 1 year - *Craig & Helen Mossman*, January 15



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 Nicki Mierzejewski at nicki@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000, ext. 250 or go to the COMMUNITY tab on our website to update your personal profile. Thank you.

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.

The Global Outreach Team invite you to:

PERSPECTIVE CLASS

CityTeam will be hosting "Perspectives on The World Christian Movement" for 15 weeks starting January 23. Pat Robertson, CityTeam's president, says "I have taken Perspectives and was blessed and challenged again to understand that God the Father is working out His perfect plan and we are part of that plan! You will be thrilled as I was to see the connection between the Old and New Testament, to see how disciple making movements are the will and purpose that God has planned from before the foundation of the world." A different world-class missionary practitioner teaches each week.

Since 1974 Perspectives has been in colleges and churches of almost every denomination in 2,000+ locations with over 85,000 alumni! Annually, in the U.S. alone, there are over 200 classes and 7,000 students. This information cannot be found in a newspaper, library, Bible study or even on most Christian college campuses.

The course is divided in four sections: **Biblical Foundation** – See new meaning as you understand the Bible as one book with one major theme. **Historical Progress** – Learn how God has been using key events and people to expand His Kingdom. **Cultural Distinctive** – Understand how the gospel is received by people of other cultures and how this affects our witness of God's truth. **Strategic Involvement** – Discover the vital role you can play in God's global purpose by using your gifts, skills and passions for His glory.

The classes at CityTeam will be held at 2304 Zanker Road, San Jose, Mondays from 3:00 to 6:00 pm from January 23 through May 21, 2012. The fee is \$250, including text and study guide. The same class is offered evenings: Sundays in Fremont and Tuesdays in Cupertino. While the fellowship in the class is great, it's easy to step into one of the others. This is an exceptional opportunity to take this life-changing course on how you view the Bible and how you view the world. You can audit or take the classes for a certificate, college or seminary credit. Please join us in this amazing experience!

For more information, please contact Jeff Cherniss at (408) 888-2647, jcherniss@cityteam.org or visit <http://www.perspectives.org>