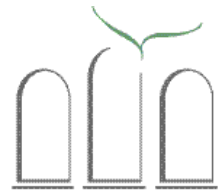


# SARATOGA FEDERATED CHURCH FEDERATED FAMILY



CHURCH ADDRESS: 20390 PARK PLACE, SARATOGA CA 95070

BUSINESS ADDRESS: 14370 SARATOGA AVE., SARATOGA CA 95070

OCTOBER 2011

## HARVEST OFFERING

*Each year we have seasonal collections for Outreach programs: a Harvest/Thanksgiving offering in the fall, an Advent/Christmas offering in the winter and a Lent/Easter offering in the spring. In January we raise funds for our Mexico house building. This fund raising is supplemental to the Regular Ministries church budget. In October we focus our attention on giving to others through our local and global outreach teams. The goal of this year's Harvest Offering of \$20,000 will be given to the following ministries:*

### Local Outreach: FCA – Bay Area

During this school season, you will find Fellowship of Christian Athletes on 25 high school and college campuses in the Bay Area, including San Jose State, a new “huddle” at Saratoga High School and many East Bay and greater San Jose high schools. Clay Elliott and his staff are working hard to strengthen and expand these ministry teams through leadership training and resourcing.

In addition to activities like school assemblies and camps, three one-day clinics (wrestling, softball and baseball) are in the works for a day of “inspiration and perspiration.” Student athletes will be trained by top notch clinicians and challenged by the saving Gospel message of Jesus Christ. This has proven to be an effective outreach program resulting in many new faith commitments and pledges to play drug and alcohol free. Another key initiative has enabled student leaders to take Bibles to many athletes and coaches who have never opened the pages of our inspired Message. Last spring, with support from SFC and other donors, the San Jose State student leaders were given 450 Bibles which they personally distributed with a handwritten note to athletes on every school team.

The Local Outreach team is excited about followup opportunities to fund new programs for this school year. The emphasis will be on extending the Bible distribution program, sponsoring a one-day clinic and supporting

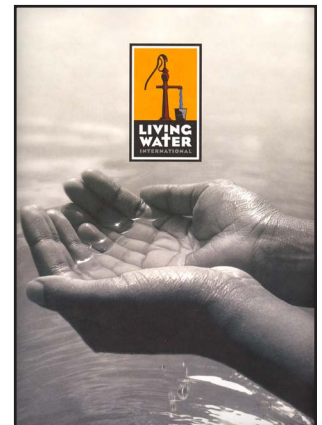


a coaching program to reach young soccer players. We are challenging our “SFC team” to contribute \$10,000 to support FCA ([www.bayareafca.org](http://www.bayareafca.org)) to reach hundreds right here in our own backyard!

### Global Outreach – Living Waters International

Did you know that one child dies every 15 seconds because of bad water? Or that safe water is not a guarantee in many parts of the world? For example:

Josh is 10. His job every day is to carry the water that sustains him and the other eight members of his family. He makes three trips (seven miles round trip) every day with a five gallon can to the local source of water. It's not clean water, it's not safe water, but it is water.



There are 884 million people on this earth lack access to SAFE water. 1.8 million children die of water born diseases, due to bad water, every year. *Living Waters International* gives people safe water. They have completed 7,000 projects in 26 countries in the last 20 years. Their projects cost between \$3,000 and \$30,000 each. Living Waters International drills wells. They train people. They send volunteers. They fund other groups that drill where Living Waters International cannot. They change the lives of both the people that get the safe water and those that make the safe water happen.

Join the Global Outreach team in giving Living Water International ([www.water.cc](http://www.water.cc)) the support and resources they need to continue changing and saving lives for Christ. Our goal is to raise \$10,000.





## Project Serve

*formerly*

*The Annual All-Church Community Service Day*

**November 6, 2011**

**12:00-5:00\* PM**

Sign-ups are now underway for one of our most popular events of the year – **Project Serve** (SFC Community Service Day). In past years, we have had more than 400 people deployed throughout our community on a Sunday afternoon bringing help, and in many cases hope, to others in our community.

Some projects fill up quickly, so sign up soon on Sunday mornings at the table in the courtyard. Advance sign ups are also needed if you want to order an event t-shirt (\$10) or a tasty box lunch (\$8) that will be available on Sunday, November 6 at 11:45 am.

Projects on deck so far include: convalescent sing-a-long team, help a family in need, SFC Sanctuary clean-up, Loaves & Fishes, Sacred Heart Community Service, San Jose Family Shelter, Second Harvest Food Bank, Joni and Friends, Sunday Friends, School of Urban Missions, CityTeam, Salvation Army and others. If you are not available on that Sunday, we also have some projects for other days – Second Harvest Food Bank on November 5 and others. Kick-off begins on October 2.

If you have any questions, contact Tim Galleher at 867-1000, ext. 234 or [tim@saratogafederated.org](mailto:tim@saratogafederated.org).

*\*Depending on your project*



## ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE

You recently received a letter from the Council of Elders introducing this year's pledge campaign. The purposes of this campaign are to provide you an annual opportunity to review your pledge to God's work through your tithes and offerings, to provide clarity on the needs of the church's general fund and to give leadership a tool for financial planning and management over the next year. Our budgeting process and your commitment to Saratoga Federated Church is very important.

Fourteen percent of our final budget is committed to our global and local outreach/missions projects. This includes sustaining annual long term support to our missionaries around the world as well as inside the United States. This year's approved budget designates \$329,000 to this effort. Our missionaries and their organizations rely on our gifts for their very existence. Once we finalize our budget each year, this number does not change.

Early this summer the Council of Elders stated that discipleship, retaining and attracting families with young children and care ministries are priorities this year. In response, the annual budget was increased for these ministry areas. You should expect to see increased activity associated with these ministries.

In fact, there is an adult Sunday School Class at 9:00 am on Galatians taught by Tom Priest. Attendance is over 60 people each week. For families with young children there will be a monthly Date Night beginning on Friday, October 7 which offers free child care, so parents can enjoy an evening out. Our Care Ministries is offering a seminar for single parents on Saturday, October 15. Over the next year you will see additional effort in these areas.

Please prayerfully consider these things as you make your financial commitment to Saratoga Federated Church. We look forward to your encouragement.



## Get Real!

### Come, follow me

*“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”*

Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message)

### GET REAL WITH WORSHIP

**Preamble:** Our church’s theme for the year, Get Real!, is both simple and profound. Wisely chosen to encourage each of us to be authentic in every area of our lives, we will find that acting on it requires an honest look at where we are and a conscious choice to live in the freedom and truth that grace allows in Christ. It is our intention each month to focus on one aspect of reality-based faith. Our focus in this issue is on worship.

**Get Real With Worship:** What motivates us to worship God? A sense of gratitude or a sense of guilt? A desire to respond to God’s grace or a desire to earn it? Sometimes we treat worship as a religious obligation, a means by which we attempt to secure God’s favor. That which God intends as a joyful exercise of freedom becomes a dreary experience of legalism. (Taken from the introduction to Galatians in the NIV Worship Leader’s Bible.)

My oldest son is a fashion designer. His new up and coming line of high-end menswear is gaining recognition and acclaim. He was in New York a few weeks ago and was invited to meet and spend some time with some of the world’s top designers. When we talked on the phone, he was excited to tell us about those encounters and his humble and grateful response to their interest and input into his work. He was not “worshipping” those people, but there are parallels in how we respond to God in worship.

There was recognition of who’s presence he was in. There was a sincere desire to make the most of the time he had with them. There was a humble joy in the fact that they saw him and knew his name. There was

a hunger to listen to their words and to apply their expertise to his life. Anyone who’s had the chance to meet someone who they highly respect and honor would recognize those unforced responses.

Worship is what you mean with all your heart, and it must be in truth. It must be honest, not a put-on. It is not something you do with your body while your mind is somewhere else.

When we pray or sing, God is not interested in us “mouthing words.” Many of our hymns and choruses are songs of worship, prayer and praise addressed to God. He is interested in our hearts meaning what we sing. In every congregation, God is looking for those who mean what they are singing and from their heart are saying these things to him.

Like Paul, the writer of Galatians, we live – and worship – by faith in the one who loved us and gave himself for us. We are welcomed into God’s holy presence not because of anything we do, but because of what Jesus Christ has already done for us. Our worship is a joyful and free response to that grace.

Bill Allison  
Pastor of Worship



### OCTOBER PREACHING SERIES

<i>“Real Freedom” - A Study in the Book of Galatians</i>	
<i>“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”</i>	
	Galatians 5:1
<b>October 2</b>	
“Justified by Faith”	Galatians 2:2-21
<b>October 9</b>	
“Real Faith and Real Works”	Galatians 3:1-14
<b>October 16</b>	
“Children of Promise”	Galatians 3:15-4:7
<b>October 23</b>	
“Two Covenants”	Galatians 4:8-31
<b>October 30</b>	
“Christ Has Set Us Free”	Galatians 5:1-5

## *Christmas in Saratoga 2011*

### “Christmas in Our Town”

Expectations run high during the holidays. Our story, set in 1958 in the fictional town of Greendale, will introduce us to a cast of characters who, through an exciting opportunity, some hilarious mishaps and a few dashed hopes, discover what the real significance of Christmas is.

There's a big part of the Saratoga Federated Church family that are busy preparing to celebrate Christmas, a very real event that runs the risk of being overshadowed by what the Holiday Season has become. “Christmas in Our Town” is a light-hearted, musical comedy wrapped around the profoundly clear message of God's gift to all mankind. The Choir, Orchestra, Christmas Company (High School and Junior High students), Kids Choir, Handbell Choir, Drama Cast and Tech Team join hands and hearts to bring you this fourth annual presentation of Christmas in Saratoga. It's the perfect event to invite your friends, family and neighbors to, and it's a great way to introduce your guests to SFC.

“Christmas in Our Town,” presented December 9 and 10 at 7:00 pm and December 11 at 3:00 and 5:30 pm, will be a gift to our community and a perfect way for SFC to enjoy working together. It's not too late to get on board. Contact Bill or Diane Allison for more information at (408) 867-1000 or [bill@saratogafederated.org](mailto:bill@saratogafederated.org).



### FALL INQUIRER'S CLASS

Twice a year Saratoga Federated Church offers the opportunity to learn more about this church and to meet other people who are also pursuing their faith in Christ. Those who attend this class have the choice to become a member of this fellowship at its completion. The Fall Inquirer's Class will be held Friday, October 21, 7:00 to 9:00 pm and Saturday, October 22, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Pre-registration for this class is necessary. Please call Kathy at the church office at (408) 867-1000, ext. 230 or sign up on the courtyard between services on October 2, 9 or 16. You will receive a follow-up information letter from the church after you register. Child care (ages 3 months through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) will be available to those who indicate a need when they register. Questions? Contact Sharon Liljenstolpe, Coordinator at (408) 374-0843.



### SEND NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO OUR RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Many of our SFC high school graduates are on their way to a new experience, leaving home to attend college! What fun and yet what a challenge for these very capable and enthusiastic young people. Tim Galleher will have a list of these students and their college addresses in mid-October. Check the Small Group Ministry Team table on the church patio in October for a listing of these students and their new mailing addresses. We are encouraging small groups to contact these students. Worshipping away from home is easier for students when they have a connection to their home church and people who care about them. Staying connected to these students helps them maintain a “sticky faith.”

If you have any questions concerning your words of encouragement, you may contact Camille Chapman at [camillechapman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:camillechapman@sbcglobal.net).

## ADULT MINISTRY NEWS

### ADULT EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

- The on-going class on the book of Galatians taught by Tom Priest at 9:00 am in the library is an excellent companion to the Sunday sermon series and offers testimonies from SFC members. Bring your Bible.
- Telling Your Story: Do you wish you could share your story of faith more easily with others? Then join us for a three-week class beginning October 4 on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. In this class, we will see how our stories, like those of Abraham, Moses, David, Ruth and Esther, are part of God's story of redemption. We will discover God in our lives, not only as our Creator and Redeemer, but as one who has been present and actively "at work" in our lives; inviting, directing, guiding and drawing us into the fullness of life with him. Come learn how to share your story with others, especially with your children, and learn how your story can be part of another's story of redemption.
- The church-wide hour of prayer meets the first Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30 pm and the third Sunday of the month from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. All are welcome. We meet in the library.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- Contemplative Prayer Retreat at Mercy Center on October 7-8. Join us as we spend time with our Creator and Redeemer enjoying the company of one another and the beauty of the retreat center. Cost is \$150, including 3 meals. Register online at <http://bit.ly/WomensPrayerRetreat2011>. *Registration ends October 2.*
- Craft Night meets the second Friday evening of the month in room 105 from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. This is a great evening of crafts and conversation. For more information, contact Kim Rolston at [kim.rolston@netapp.com](mailto:kim.rolston@netapp.com).
- Monday Moms meets every Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Childcare is provided. They are reading *Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God* by Francis Chan. This group also does monthly Moms Night Outs and other fun activities. Contact Dorothy Araldi at [dorothy\\_araldi@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothy_araldi@yahoo.com) for information and to be notified about upcoming events.

## MEN'S MINISTRIES

### SIGNS AND WONDERS: GOD'S MIRACLES IN OUR MIDST

Come join us at the Men's Ministries Breakfast on Saturday, October 15 for a journey around the globe with Erick Sturm as he shares stories and images that will encourage your heart, fill your soul and reawaken your faith. Erick will share the story of a Nepalese Hindu whose body was filled with cancerous tumors, and moments away from death, but he lives today and has led hundreds to Christ. Listen to how a Philippine man and dozens of children in an orphanage were miraculously saved from communist rebel gunmen. Finally, Erick will share how he was there to witness first hand, a miracle of healing in rural China. You are invited as Erick shares stories, photos and video.



Erick Sturm is CEO of Sturm Media and Communications and President of His Hands Productions. He also serves on the SFC Global Outreach Team and has traveled around the world to produce numerous documentaries and films.

The breakfast starts at 7:30 am. Sign up on Sundays at the table in the courtyard beginning October 2.

Coming in November - Chris and Maxie Kamalski, Missionaries from South Africa. Plan to attend the breakfast on Saturday, November 19.



November 2011 Newsletter  
Deadline  
Wednesday, October 12



## FALL KICK-OFF LUNCHEON



Women's Fellowship shifts into high gear Tuesday, October 4 with their Fall Kickoff Luncheon at 11:00 am in Richards Hall. Six talented artists from our SFC family will present "*The Artist in You – How God Inspires Artistic Expression.*"

Polly Hillis, John Kimball, Martha Reich, Carla Bjork, Betty McGuire and Sue Shannon will be sharing their work in oil, watercolor, pastels, charcoal, calligraphy, etc. They are eager to share how faith and art have connected in their lives and hope to inspire the artist in you! For a last minute reservation, contact Nancy Kamalski at (408) 255-3627 or nancykamalski@gmail.com. Plan to come and kick-off the fall with old and new friends. This is a great meeting to share with a friend. Cost will be \$10, payable at the event.

Fellowship Circles will have their second meeting on October 18. We would love to have you join us for Bible study, fellowship, prayer and delicious goodies. For information or to join, call Joan Leonard at (408) 741-0213.



## BOOK CLUB

Come one and all to our Thursday, October 20 meeting at 12:15 pm at the home of Ruth Bruns at the Forum community in Cupertino. Please call Ruth for directions at (650) 962-9033. This month's book is a very thought provoking non-fiction book, *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell. It delves into what it takes to become successful, nurture or nature, and walks us through the lives of some very famous people and what made them who they are. Remember to bring your own bag lunch.

The November meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17 at the church in room 111 at 12:15 pm. This month is a fun read called *Irish Country Doctor* by Patrick Taylor. It sounds like an easy book and is the beginning of a series of books that one of our members really loved. We thought the holidays can be busy, so a little light reading would be perfect. Bring your bag lunch.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Our First and Second Graders are still looking for a teacher for the 10:30 service. If you love kids and would like to help them learn more about Jesus, please contact Debbie Sturm at (408) 867-3456 or debbie@saratogafederated.org.

Children's Ministry is also looking for substitute teachers and assistants to be available on Sunday mornings during both the 9:00 and 10:30 services. If you are interested in being added to this list, please contact Debbie Sturm at (408) 867-3456 or debbie@saratogafederated.org.

## NEW! – DATE NIGHT

### FOR PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Could you use three hours on a Friday evening without your children and child care free of charge? Imagine the freedom and joy!

On Friday, October 7, we will be introducing Date Night for families with young children (infant through 5<sup>th</sup> grade). Experienced couples, those of us who have achieved the title "Empty Nester," would like to serve families with young children at SFC by providing three hours of free child care one Friday each month in the church nursery and children's ministry rooms.

You can drop your children off at the Nursery beginning at 5:30 pm and pick them up by 8:30 pm at the same location. We will be using all of the Children's Ministry area to accommodate the different ages of children who attend. Please bring a bag dinner for each of your children and the normal emergency information you would leave with a sitter. Our team will provide a safe, fun and loving evening for your children. If you have any questions, please contact Robyn Swan in the church office.



## ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP

### *Who Needs Estate Planning?*

- Anyone for whom privacy is an issue.
- Anyone who has more than a “de minimus” estate (>\$20,000 in real property).
- Any families with children from prior marriages.
- Anyone who wants to protect family resources.
- Anyone who wants to make tax advantaged gifts.
- Anyone who wants to be a good shepherd of the resources they have been given.

The SFC Foundation is offering two workshops in which you can learn about Estate Planning:

### **Estate Planning 101 - Sunday, October 30**

11:45 am to 1:00 pm in the Library (lunch served).

This workshop is for those who know they need a plan but haven't done anything but talk about it. Includes overview of what the law says, understanding probate (and why it should be avoided), why a “Living Trust” is important and answering questions from workshop participants.

### **Estate Planning 201 - Thursday, November 10**

7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Library (dessert served).

This workshop is for those who already have an estate plan, are knowledgeable about the basics but want more advanced information, want updates on current changes in the law and/or want to take the “next step” in planning. Includes a review of the law changes (they constantly change), exploring more advanced tools and understanding one of the greatest tax planning tools in America – The Charitable Remainder Trust (it defers capital gains, provides an income stream and gives an immediate tax deduction).

Sign-up on Sunday mornings in the courtyard or call Kathy Hensley at the church office (408) 867-1000. Space is limited, so sign up today.



## SFC FOUNDATION

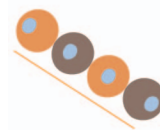
Saratoga Federated Church has a foundation fund. It was established several years ago to provide a receptacle for members or anyone else to donate funds for present or future uses by the church. The primary uses of the foundation funds are for capital needs such as pastoral housing or purchasing church property.

Most foundations are funded from legacy giving out of estates or for a specific purpose. However, funds can be donated at any time. If you have any questions, please call Jerry Bruce, Senior Director of Administration, at (408) 867-1000, ext. 249.

### 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, November 12, from 10:00 to 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](mailto:barbara@saratogafederated.org) or (408) 996-0142.



# Celebrations!

## CELEBRATING AN *Anniversary*



- 62 years - *Allen & Becky Breed*, October 15
- 57 years - *Hank & Sandy Miller*, October 24
- 56 years - *Bud & Carolyn Alexander*, October 1
- 49 years - *Bob & Joan Leonard*, October 6
- 48 years - *Shawn & Fumi Tashiro*, October 20
- 30 years - *Orv & Karen Burley*, October 3
- 30 years - *Chris & Hally Clark*, October 12
- 25 years - *Dan & Cindy Linebarger*, October 25
- 25 years - *Russ & Lauren Spence*, October 25
- 20 years - *Don & Judy Simpson*, October 5
- 19 years - *Chris & Kirsten Trapani*, October 10
- 16 years - *Stan & Debra Sells*, October 28
- 13 years - *Richard & Armi Geno*, October 11
- 9 years - *Keith & Cindy Mueller*, October 5
- 9 years - *Robert & Kimberly Lipsett*, October 19
- 7 years - *Daniel & Dorothy Araldi*, October 16
- 6 years - *Charlie & Kay Lawton*, October 8
- 4 years - *Carl & Sharon Babb*, October 12
- 1 year - *Andrew & Malia Clark*, October 3



*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.



Daylight savings ends *next month* on *Saturday, November 5* at midnight.



### WE'RE MOVING

*Clay & Kelly Elliott*  
414 Glenford Park Court  
San Jose, CA 95136

*Don & Mary Macleod*  
133 Glen Ridge Avenue  
Los Gatos, CA 95030  
(408) 399-5310

*Ada Brubaker*  
The Meadows  
110 Wood Road, Apt B101  
Los Gatos, CA 95030

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](mailto:kathy@saratogafederated.org) or (408) 867-1000, or go to the COMMUNITY tab on our website to update your personal profile. Thank you.