



# Tell It On The Mountain

Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church 559-683-6742 November 2005

**Dear Sierra Vista Friends,**

Since you will soon have your new Pastor, my services will no longer be needed as your interim pastor. As you likely know, I have been given an opportunity to serve as Interim Executive Director of Calvin Crest Conference Center, beginning in early November.

Due to the nature of relationships, most of us have only so much room to be close to a limited number of people. In the case of relationships with Pastors, our hearts can only embrace one or two at a time. For that reason, I must back away from involvement in Sierra Vista in order to allow room in your hearts for attachment to your new Pastor. We can certainly still remain friends, but anything having to do with Sierra Vista or with pastoral services, such as counseling, funerals or weddings, must be set aside. I hope you can see that this is in no way a rejection of you, but is in order to ensure a strong start with your new Pastor.

I am very confident that Sierra Vista will be well taken care of by the loving and capable leadership provided by Pastor Paul and your Session and Deacons. You are indeed in good hands!!

Please know how deeply you have blessed Barb and me during our sojourn together. You are truly a blessed and wonderful church family! It is with anticipation in our hearts that we look forward to continuing to rub hearts together a little further down the road.

Gratefully in Christ,

Rick Irish

**SHOEBOX  
SUNDAY  
IS NOV. 20<sup>TH</sup>**

Remember to bring your filled, wrapped shoeboxes to church anytime Sunday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>.



Brochures are available in the church office with instructions and labels for the shoeboxes.

**Send Christ's love to children around the world!**

## "WEEKEND IN THE WORD" NOVEMBER 4-6

Dr. Ron Rand comes to Sierra Vista with a deep love for Jesus and for people of all ages, a contagious enthusiasm, an engaging sense of humor, and an ability to simplify profound Biblical truths. As an author, Presbyterian pastor, pro sports chapel speaker, husband, father and grandfather, Ron brings much life experience to share.

### Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

"Practical Ways to Upbuild Family Relationships" For Parents, Grandparents, Children over 4 and Teens  
Saturday, 9-11 am--"Ways of Wisdom," enhancing church and family communication skills--for Parents, Grandparents, Children 10 years and older.  
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED, WITHOUT CHARGE, IF YOU HAVE SIGNED UP.

### Saturday, 1:30-4 p.m.

"Equipping People to Effectively Communicate Their Faith in Positive and Practical Ways."

### Sunday, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services

"The Place of Grace"  
Childcare through elementary age provided.  
Please sign up for lunch and for childcare.

If you want more information about Ron, take a look at his website at <http://www.upbuildingministries.org/>

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***Dear Friends,***

The time has finally come! Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has chosen the candidate they believe is best suited to serve as Pastor of Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church. Now it is your turn to have a say (that is, if you are a voting member).

Having prayed through more than sixty resumes, listened to an untold number of recorded sermons, spent hours in telephone interviews, talked with numbers of references, traveled many miles to visit and hear candidates preach, and prayed some more, your PNC has arrived at a final decision—the one person they want you to meet, listen to and prayerfully vote upon.

In the process, they have not been alone. In addition to the many of us who have prayed for and encouraged them, the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) has provided a liaison in the person of Rev. Paul Armstrong. He has counseled and supported them, being careful not to influence their choices. Members of the COM have met with the final candidate to insure, for your protection, that his statement of faith and credentials are all in order.

We hope that this candidate and his family will be with us here sometime in November. Arrangements have been made for him to meet with various groups of the church, and an open house will be held on Saturday evening.

Sunday morning the candidate will preach at both morning services. At noon, following the second service, the Session has called a special congregational meeting for the purpose of electing your new Pastor. All who are voting members of the congregation will have opportunity to vote by secret ballot.

I was recently asked if such voting really meant anything, or if the PNC's choice was final. In truth your vote makes a difference. If enough people believe that the person who has been nominated is not God's choice for Pastor, he will not be invited to come. On the other hand, if the vast majority believe he is God's man, he will be called.

One might question if such a vote can have much meaning if you have not had much chance to get to know him. There is truth in that concern, even though first impressions can say a lot about a person. In actuality, your vote is as much an affirmation of your confidence in your PNC as it is in your knowledge of the candidate himself. And from where I sit, your PNC is comprised of top quality people who have done an outstanding job!

I urge you to take advantage of each opportunity to meet and listen to this candidate, and then to prayerfully prepare to vote as you sense the Lord leads you.

Rick Irish, Interim Pastor

**A letter from the PNC*****Dear Sierra Vista Family –***

Yes, you guessed it. We have selected the person that we believe God has chosen to be the next pastor of Sierra Vista. We are excited about all of the gifts that he will bring to our family. We are also excited that now you all will get to know him personally, as we have all come to know and respect him while we have traveled this road together. We are not mentioning his name here for the simple fact that his current church does not know yet that he is leaving and we wouldn't want to harm his current congregation by word getting to them prematurely.

Now, for what comes next. During the weekend of November 18-20th our candidate will be in Oakhurst, He will be meeting and greeting at several events over the weekend. A letter introducing him and giving you details of the weekend's events will follow in the next week or so. He will preach at all morning services Sunday the 20th. Following the 10:45 service, we will hold a congregational meeting at which all members of Sierra Vista will be able to vote whether or not they believe this is the man for our church. As Rick Irish mentions elsewhere in this Tell-It, we understand that it is hard for you to really know this man after hearing him preach one time. Know that we have spent several hours with him and with his wife, and that we have been praying over this selection for the last several months, as has he. We pray that you will feel what we felt as we learned about him, from his personal information form, his sermon tapes, his phone interview with our committee, his reference checks, our visit to his current church, and his visit to Oakhurst. We are excited about the caliber of man God is bringing to Sierra Vista, and we all look forward to getting to know him and his family better.

And now we want to thank you for all of your patience to date. We know that you have oftentimes wondered if we were doing anything. Even when we stumbled along and wondered what to do next, God has been in this process with us at every step. He has done His work best when we didn't know exactly what to do. We have appreciated and coveted your prayers all along the way. We now ask that you will continue to pray for our candidate that he and his family will be at peace with the decision they have made to accept our offer, and that God will be guiding the process as he and his family say goodbye to their current church family, find a place to live in Oakhurst, and begin their lives here with us.

Praying with you all--

The Pastor Nominating Committee

**IMAGINE WORSHIP . . . . .**

In the last year we have taken some notable steps forward in improving our worship time and we would like to continue moving forward. We saw the need for having a worship leader and hired Ruben for 20 hours a week, but it is a full time position. This summer we hired Denise Jones to be Ruben's assistant for 5 hours a week, but we would love to have her all year long.

Did you know that some Sundays Ruben not only leads worship, but then runs back and operates the sound and powerpoint? We would love to hire a sound technician. Did you know that Jeff Altimus for years played the drums for all 3 services? We would love to have at least 4 different praise teams to allow many others to use their gifts.

Did you know that in many churches only 20% of the congregation do 80% of the work? God gave each one of us gifts to use for His glory and we need you to use yours!

Let's think about our worship time at Sierra Vista and the offerings we bring. When we hear the word offering we immediately think of money, but an offering can be so much more and such an important part of worshipping God. **Imagine yourself as an offering.....**

**Can you Imagine** 100 people in the choir?

**Can you Imagine** 50 singers on 6 different praise teams with dozens of musicians?

**Can you Imagine** a drama team?

**Can you Imagine** 12 committed people on the sound team?

**Can you Imagine** a video team bringing us clips each week?

**Can you Imagine** 4 octaves of bells ringing throughout the sanctuary?

**Can you Imagine** a full-time worship leader?

**Can you Imagine** a church web site where we could hear worship songs, sermons, or have interactive bible studies?

**Can you imagine** screens on each side of the sanctuary that don't block the cross?

**Can you imagine** a team of 30 people who pray for the Pastor during each worship service?

**Can you imagine** being a contagious witness for Christ right here in Oakhurst?

**Can you imagine** a sanctuary filled with 700 people praising God?

**Can you imagine** falling more in love with Jesus that you can't wait to worship Him each Sunday?

**Can you imagine** 100% of the congregation doing 100% of the work?

**Can you Imagine** what it would be like if we all faithfully showed God how much we love and appreciate everything He has given us by giving something back to Him?

**Can you imagine** what we could do if each one of us gave just one tenth more than we are giving now?

**Can you imagine how much God would bless us?**

What will our worship time look like in 2006 if we do something that up until now we could only **imagine**? **What will you bring as an offering that will turn what you could only imagine into what is happening at Sierra Vista? Step out and ask God, He'll let you know.**

Teri Lucas, Worship Elder

**MISSIONS & OUTREACH**

We are commissioned to share the good news in everything we do. Walter Brueggemann suggests three audiences that the church needs to reach: Outsiders, Insiders and Youth.

The Outsiders include people who are not now, or have never been, part of the church. They might be family members, friends, neighbors, or co-workers. The Insiders include we who are in the church. We need to continue to hear the good news whether in times of crisis, bereavement or life transitions. Maybe we have just drifted away or become lax in our exercise of faith. Youth and young adults seeking meaning in an insecure world need to find good news of hope and purpose in Christ. The PCUSA focus on evangelism has shared these concepts through their campaign **Here and Now**. It reminds us that evangelism is as close to us as our skin and as immediate as our breathing. Let us be mindful of sharing the good news in different ways to different people.

This year we will be doing **Alternative Gifts**. In 1980 Harriet Prichard, then director of Children's Ministries at the Pasadena Presbyterian Church wanted to model for the church's children a new, noncommercial way to give authentic gifts for the holidays. She organized a market in which children and many adults sold relief, self-development goods and animals for persons in need in the third world. Thus **Alternative Gift International** was born and in 1986 was organized as a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation. In order to send designated gifts overseas and to poverty areas of the United States it is necessary to cooperate with many sending agencies. AGI has chosen nonprofit agencies with excellent reputations and track records to send its gifts to the poor. Over 60 validated nonprofit agencies and their established projects have received grants to benefit their international mission.

**Let our days be honoring to HIM this month, serving full of love and joy.**

**2 Corinthians 8:4 "We should receive the gift of giving and the fellowship of serving one another."**

God's Best To You!

Christ's Blessings on You!

Lana Jackson, Elder of Mission & Outreach

## HOE DOWN & CHILI COOK-OFF

NOVEMBER 11  
6:30 - 9:30

Fall is definitely in the air, warm days and cold nights. The time of harvest, a time of thanksgiving, a time of square dancing? Yes! At our first and hopefully annual **HOE DOWN & CHILI COOK-OFF**. This family event spearheaded by our own creative & lovely Denise Jones is sure to be a fun packed and memorable evening. Please mark your calendars and come and share a special time of family fun. This event will offer something for everybody. For the kids, face painting, crafts, bobbing for apples, hayrides and great food. For the adults, square dancing, family fun, hayrides, competing for the title "Best Chili in the Mountains" maybe a pie eating contest? And enjoying more of those scrumptious desserts prepared for us by our own awesome cooks.

Watch the bulletin for more information. See you there!

You may call Denise Jones or Cyndi Presho for information or to volunteer

### SENIOR FELLOWSHIP EVENT

### POTLUCK & ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

November 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

This is a time of great fun! Come join us! Please bring a salad, main dish, or dessert and one wrapped ornament per person. Questions??? Call Gene & Yhonna Loy at 658-8942.

### JOIN THE CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS

The Sierra Singers Choir has started rehearsals for their Christmas music program and is inviting singers to join them. The program will be selections of familiar and new music to be sung with a variety of instrumental accompaniment. If you enjoy music of the Christmas season, now is the time to join the choir. Teenagers to seniors are welcome and CD's will be available so that you may practice on your own. Rehearsals are every Wednesday night in the sanctuary from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Check your calendar to make sure that you will be free to sing in the program on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. Then call the director, Cathy Walker, 658-7376 so that music will be ready for you.

## SESSION NOTES AND VOTES October 18, 2005

### IT WAS NOTED...

- Average Attendance Sept 25 0 October was **432**.
- Our busy season is in full gear. Some of the scheduled events are a Come and See Class, a Mission trip to Mississippi, "Weekend in the Word" with *Ron Rand*, and upcoming Candidate Sunday, Operation Christmas Child, Christmas presentations by our children (*Angel's Alert*) and the Sierra Singers, a 'Smore Christmas, three Christmas Eve services....
- The Deacon's are helping support a family relocating here due to Hurricane Katrina.

### IT WAS VOTED...

- To approve the minutes of the Regular Session meeting on September 20, 2005 as presented.
- To ratify the marriage of *Kevin Cox* and *Katrina Horn* on Sept 27, 2005 at Sierra Vista. Witnesses were *Pamela Lee* and *Joe Standlee*. *Rev. J. M. Parrack* officiated.
- To ratify the marriage of *Bryant Elkins* and *Rena Miller* on October 8, 200, at Sierra Vista. Witnesses were *Darlynn Roscoe* and *Elliott Elkins*. *Rev. Paul De Pledge* officiated.
- To **accept with regret** the resignation of Interim Pastor, *Rick Irish*, effective 10-31-05. *Paul De Pledge* will serve as Acting Moderator until a new pastor is in place.
- To receive the September, 2005, Statement of Operations and the General Checking Account report as presented.
- To approve plans to kick off our fall Stewardship drive on October 30, 2005, as presented.
- To have **three morning Worship Services on Candidate Sunday** with voting to follow at noon at a Called Congregational Meeting. Only members may vote.
- To have only **one worship service** on Sunday, Christmas Day, at 10 a.m.
- To **receive into fellowship** the following new members who completed the Come and See Class on October 15 and 16, 2005:  
**Certificate of Transfer:** *Mark Hickman, Kathryn Scofield, Juli Setaro, Noma Sprotte, Marvin Sprotte.*  
**Reaffirmation of Faith:** *Julie Mann, Janet Ott, Nancy White.*  
**Profession of Faith:** *Tom Novak, Letha Williams.*
- To approve the members of the **2005-06 Nominating Team:**  
**Elders:** *Cyndi Presho, Chair; Ronna Hendrickson*  
**Deacon Representative:** *Newt Combs*  
**Members at Large** (already approved): *Mike Bradley, Bryanna Frembling, Joan Holmstrom, Sara Robison.*



Betty L. Strain, Clerk of Session



# November 2005



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10 a.m. Attendance 7 p.m. Prayer Tm 7 p.m. Mission Tm 7 p.m. Jr. High Group	2	3 6:30 p.m. Worship Team	4 Friday evening through Sunday morning "Weekend in the Word" with Dr. Ron Rand	5 Sierra Vista's Day Of Prayer For Pres Church (USA)
6 Worship 9, & 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m. Communion	7 7 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 p.m. Stephen Ministers	8 10 a.m. Attendance 7 p.m. Deacons 7 p.m. Jr. High Group	9 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:10 p.m. AWANA 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 6:30 p.m. PNC 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery	10 6 p.m. MOPS 6:30 p.m. Praise Team Reh.	11 6:30 p.m. Hoedown!	12
13 Worship 9, & 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m. 10:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting	14 7 p.m. Boy Scouts Sr. Fellowship Ornament Exchange	15 10 a.m. Attendance 6:30 p.m. Session 7 p.m. Jr. High Group	16 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:10 p.m. AWANA 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 6:30 p.m. PNC 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery	17 6:30 p.m. Praise Team Reh.	18	19
20 CANDIDATE SUNDAY SHOEBOX SUNDAY Worship 9, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m. 12 p.m. Congregational Meeting	21 7 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 p.m. Stephen Ministers	22 10 a.m. Attendance 7 p.m. Jr. High Group	23 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:10 p.m. AWANA 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 6:30 p.m. PNC 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery	 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED		25 26
27 Worship 9, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.	28 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	29 10 a.m. Attendance 7 p.m. Jr. High Group	30 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:10 p.m. AWANA 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 6:30 p.m. PNC 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery			

**SUNDAY**

❖ 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday evenings Bible Study at Dave & Linda Pound's home. Call 683-3365

Join A

**MONDAY**

❖ 7 p.m. College & Career study led by Ryan McKenzie. Call 683-1341.

**TUESDAY**

❖ 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study at the Creighton's home in Coarsegold. Call 683-5813.

**WEDNESDAY**

❖ 9:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, "Word Studies", led by Gene Johnston in the Parent's Room. Call 692-2711.

❖ 9:30 a.m. WOW (Women of the Word) "Believing God" in the Chapel. Call 683-8085.

**THURSDAY**

❖ 12 p.m. Brown Bag Bible Study led by Roy Erford in Oakhurst. Call 683-5062.

**SATURDAY**

❖ 7 a.m. Promise Keeper Men's Bible Study led by John Ramsey in the Chapel. Call 642-3152.

