



# Tell It On The Mountain

Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church 559-683-6742 March 2006

## Thank You

Kathy and I have been here at Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church for just over a month. Boy, how time flies when you are having fun. This month has been a wonderful month. You all have shown us such kindness and friendship. You have made us feel so very welcomed. I can't begin to tell you how many people stopped by to tell us "we are glad you are here!" I hope that you can still say that in ten years! We certainly do appreciate all the gifts, visits, well wishes and prayers that you have given. We feel quite honored and quite humbled by our reception.

This first month has also been the beginning of an adjustment period for us. At home we are adjusting to having a fire in the fireplace. In Arizona, if we started a fire in the fireplace, we probably had to open the windows to make it cold enough to warrant a fire. I thought making a fire would be easy. I thought all I needed was a little wood, some paper and a match. Little did I know that there is an art to making a fire.

We are also adjusting to the weather. We have had more precipitation in the month we have been here than in the last five years in Arizona. The first night it snowed on us here in Oakhurst, we were to go to the Rogers' house for a get together. I saw the snow and was ready to cancel. Dan Rogers and Mike Jones came to get us and Dan returned us home. By the second snow, I was a little braver. I actually used the church parking lot to skid and slide around. Maybe next winter I will actually try driving on the snow.

We have begun to adjust to living in Oakhurst. We know where the grocery stores are. We have been to the post office, hardware store and the high school. Last week we went to Mariposa to get started on all the DMV processes. We have been to Bass Lake, Northfolk and Coarsegold. I think I can even tell you which direction they are from the church. We have been to Calvin Crest and Emerald Cove. We are getting to be more and more adventurous.

Finally, we are beginning to get adjusted to life at Sierra Vista. This past Sunday I actually knew several people by name. I know the names of all the staff members. I think I have all the elder's names down. Currently I am working on the deacons. Thank you all for being so patient. Please don't be offended if I have to ask you your name.

For the next several months I am planning on just getting to know people and the church. If you have an idea or a dream about what our church should be doing, please share it with me. If you have an idea on how we can improve the church, please share it with me. If you have an idea on how we can improve our facility, please share it with me. I would appreciate and welcome you ideas and thoughts.

Let's commit to working together as we seek to discover what God would have Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church do. I look forward to that adventure. I am glad I get to do it with you!

With my love,

*Rick*

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## SESSION NOTES AND VOTES February 21, 2006

### IT WAS NOTED...

- Attendance from Jan 22 – Feb 19: 450. Attendance was 294 on the snow day and 674 on Pastor *Rick Lemberg's* first Sunday.
- Session welcomed *Rick Lemberg* as Moderator of Session.
- Minutes of the Worship Team and the Youth Ministries Team were received for information.
- Additional information about attendance at 10:45 am Sunday School was presented.

### IT WAS VOTED...

- To approve minutes of the regular session meeting on 1-17-06, as presented.
- To approve minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting on 2-12-06, as presented.
- To approve a Certificate of Transfer for *Patricia Pinckney* to the New Community Methodist Church, effective 12-17-06.
- To receive the January, 2006, Statement of Operations as presented.
- To receive the January, 2006, General Checking Accounts as presented.
- To hire *Nellie McKenzie* on a temporary basis for February and March, 2006, to assist with the Jr Hi transition.
- To authorize a fund raiser for the Youth Team for the spring mission trip in April.
- To approve the Inactive List for 2006, as presented.
- To approve the Annual Statistical Report to General Assembly as presented.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Betty L. Strain*, Clerk of Session

## ICE YOUR CELL PHONE

Paramedics will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity. You can make their job much easier with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt. ICE -- ICE stands for In Case of Emergency...



If you add an entry to the contacts list in your cell phone under ICE, with the name and phone number that emergency services should call on your behalf, you can save them a lot of time and have your loved ones contacted quickly. It takes only a few minutes of your time to do. Paramedics know what ICE means and they will look for it immediately.

ICE your cell phone today...

## CALLING ALL SINGERS!

The Sierra Choral Festival will be held at SVPC on **March 17 and 18**. This singing experience is open to all mountain area church choirs.

Conductor/Composer **Allan Robert Petker** will again lead the choirs in learning special anthems and working on vocal technique. Mr. Petker conducts the Consort Chorale of San Francisco, the Santa Clarita Master Chorale, and serves as Minister of Music at the San Pedro Presbyterian Church in Southern CA. This is his seventh year to be invited to Oakhurst to conduct this Festival.

Singers from our choir will participate, but you don't have to be a member of a church choir to register for this event. It is open to any singer with a workshop fee of \$40, which includes music and lunch. The event begins Friday evening and continues all day Saturday. Mr. Petker will be helping with music and directing our Sierra Singers on Sunday, March 19 at the 9 a.m. worship.

In connection with the Sierra Choral Festival, a program of music learned in the Festival, and other solo and instrumental music will be presented at **4:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 18**, in the sanctuary of Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church. Members and friends of Sierra Vista are invited to come to this special program, to enjoy what the Festival choir has accomplished.

## SENIOR EVENT DINNER THEATER

# CATS

The longest-running musical in Broadway history, "CATS", is coming to Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater this spring! Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical masterpiece provides a funny, touching look at the vivid personalities of the feline world. These cats dance and sing and may even snuggle up against your leg.....wildly entertaining fun!

Although the Senior Event is scheduled for April 23rd, tickets will go on sale early (March 12 -- April 2).....so plan ahead and sign up at the Senior table during coffee hour in the patio. The price for the 11 a.m. Sunday Brunch / Mattinee is \$38.00 per person, which must be PAID AT THE TIME OF SIGN UP. We have 46 spots to fill and they will probably go fast, so get your name on the dotted line early. If we have any spots to fill by April, we'll open it up to everyone on a first-come basis. This will be an extraordinary theatrical experience you won't want to miss!! Any questions?? Contact Pat Kruse at (209) 742-4432.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 2005 Annual Report

As we look back over the past year, we are once again awed and humbled that, despite our shortcomings, God has been faithful. He will do nothing else for He is God. And it is in the strength of this knowledge that we reach out to the children in this community and beyond.

In addition to being a lot of hard work, it is a lot of fun working in children's ministries. As the kids grow through the different "ages and stages" we get to laugh with them, cry with them, hug them, pray with them and, Lord willing, watch them grow closer to Him.

It requires a huge undertaking by a lot of people for all this to happen. There are many, many volunteers who serve in Awana, children's church, Sunday school, Boy Scouts, nursery and preschool, VBS, musicals, camping, planning, prayer. Although I'm not going to attempt to mention them all by name, you know who you are. And I want to take this opportunity to once again say Thank You! We truly appreciate you and may God richly bless you for all you do!

We have an average of 55 to 60 kids in the 10:45 a.m. Sunday school classes each week, with more in nursery and preschool. Awana added new children in 2005. And we continue to have smiling faces in Children's Church at 9:00 a.m.

Last fall we were blessed to hire Nichole Muhulski to be a consistent, loving presence in the nursery each week. Being able to have the same person each Sunday provides a stable environment for these little children where they don't have to be afraid of a new face each time their parents drop them off.

As the ministries grow, so does the workload. So as the finances increase, we are praying that the Lord will provide a Director of Children's Ministries, someone who can take what we are doing now and make it even richer. A person, who, by God's grace, will help us see and enact God's greater vision for the children and families in Oakhurst, the surrounding communities, and beyond. With all that we are doing, there is still more to be done. How long till the Lord returns? We do not know, but we pray that we will be faithful until He comes.

Joan Yeatts, Children's Ministry Elder



## MISSION & OUTREACH

At our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>, I shared some statistics about Missions here at SVPC. Several people asked that I would share those in writing as it gave a clear picture of what we are about.

When our church was formed in the late 80's, the goal was to give 50% of the budget to Missions. Today's Mission budget is \$122,400, which is 24% of the operating budget. We have taken the command in Acts 1:8 "To be HIS witnesses" in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Our **Jerusalem** is Oakhurst where this year we have \$19,000 budgeted for Calvin Crest, Helping Hands, Manna House, Urbana, SVPC Youth and Seed Planting. Our **Judea**, the region surrounding Oakhurst, we have \$25,700 budgeted to FIRM, Lindsay/Terra Bella, Madera Rescue Mission, Mission Program, InterVarsity – CSU Fresno, Bakersfield NCD, Madera Correctional Outreach and Corcoran. Our **Samaria**, the adjoining region, we have \$12,100 budgeted to Emmanuel Orphanage, InterVarsity – Mike Karim in Houston, Texas, and Spectrum. Our **ends of the earth**, or global missions, we have \$18,000 budgeted to China (Leadership Development – Becky Newfeld), POWE (Bob & Jan Blincoe, Brazil (Vic & Marty Wiens), Philippines (New Tribes – Bill & Donna Davis), India (Witnessing Ministries – Philip & Elizabeth Prasad), and Medical Benevolence. We also serve as senders (Romans 10:15) with \$37,000 budgeted to Ron & Margie Grant (MAF – Ecuador), David & Ellyn Hoffman (MAF – Idaho), and Jack & Keiko Marshall (World Opportunities – Australia).

Last year our Mission budget was \$120,400. We gave \$50,953.50 to Presbyterian giving last year. Presbyterian mission ministries that we support are \$34,000 and \$16,953.50 was given in offerings (Tsunami Relief, Christmas Joy Offering, Corcoran Windows, One Great Hour of Sharing and Katrina Relief).

Matthew 28:18-20 *The Message*

*Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."*

We want to be about the business of making the invisible God visible to everyone we meet.

God's Best to You! Christ's Blessings On You!

Lana Jackson, Mission & Outreach Elder

## Parenting is Heart Work Offering a new way to look at parenting

Parents-of-teenagers unite! And join me on Tuesday nights at Sierra Vista to study a book called *Parenting is Heart Work*. This practical, biblical resource challenges us to change the way we view our role as parents and, ultimately, to change the way we parent in order for children to change the way they live. Even though our study is already underway, it's not too late to get involved.

In this book, authors Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN, share the results of their study of the 750 times the word "heart" is used in the Bible. Giving practical application, relevant illustrations, and many helpful suggestions, *Parenting is Heart Work* will help you understand what the heart is and how you can mold and direct it. You'll learn how to help children and adolescents make lasting changes.

I've found that too often, parenting books focus on merely changing kids' behavior, which misses the deeper issue of character development. Many of us get

caught up in getting our children to behave on the outside, but miss the inner convictions of the heart. This approach may help raise kids who maybe know how to "act" but not how to "be." Kids need to be molded and disciplined, not just managed or controlled.

Being a parent and a kid in today's world is indeed a challenge. There is a lot more at stake in parenting than merely getting kids to behave. I'm excited about this "heart" approach to parenting. *Parenting is Heart Work* isn't just theory. Suggestions are based on real-life examples of teenagers and kids, addressing specific issues that parents face. If you can't make it to our Tuesday night group, I hope you'll consider picking up a copy of the book in the church office. *Parenting is Heart Work* is easy to read and understand, and yet offers a profound challenge for parents to consider: that our spiritual legacy perpetuates only because of children and their hearts.

Learning together,

Pastor Paul



## SOME LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES . . .

### FATHER/SON WEEKENDS

Camp Sugar Pine is offering two weekends for Dads and Sons "**Mountain Men II**" April 21-23 and April 28-30. Registrations forms are available in the church office.

### MOTHER/DAUGHTER WEEKENDS

Camp Sugar Pine is offering two weekends for Moms and Daughters "**It's a Princess Thing**" May 5-7 and May 19-21. Registration forms are available in the church office.

### ETERNAL IMPACT CONFERENCE

March 10-11 Ponderosa Basin Chapel in Mariposa is hosting two conferences for men and couples. "**Men's Advance**"

## MEMBERSHIP - YOUR CHOICE

Romans 12:5 "In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Whenever a child is born, he or she automatically becomes a part of the universal family of human beings. But that child also needs to become a member of a specific family to receive nurture and care and grow up healthy and strong. The same is true spiritually. When you were born again, you automatically became a part of God's universal family, but you also need to become a member of a local expression of God's family.

You become a Christian by committing yourself to Christ, but you become a church member by committing yourself to a specific group of believers. Do you want to find out more about our church family?

## Come & See what membership is all about at Sierra Vista

Our next class will be held over two days: Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Lunch provided both days. Childcare available. Reserve your spot by calling the church office, 683-6742, by March 20<sup>th</sup>. Or sign up at the *Welcome Tent* on the patio March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, & 19<sup>th</sup>.

This class is required for membership, but many attend just for the valuable information given. You'll learn about the history of Sierra Vista and have an opportunity to meet many of those involved in leadership.

(Conference for Men \$15 per person) Friday, March 10 (6:30 to 9 p.m.) and Saturday, March 11 (8:30 to 11:15 a.m.). "**Optimize Your Marriage**" (Conference for Couples \$25 per couple) Saturday, March 11 (2:00 to 6:00 p.m.). If you are interested in attending one or both of these conferences contact Ponderosa Basin Chapel at (209) 742-6760.

Watch the Sunday bulletin for new adult classes beginning later this month.

John Ramsey, Adult Ministries Elder



# March 2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:10 p.m. AWANA 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery	2	3	4 8 a.m. Jr. & Sr. High Skiing at Badger
5 Worship 9, & 10:45 a.m. Communion	6 7 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers	7 9 a.m. Summit Mailing 10 a.m. Attendance 2 p.m. Prayer Tm 7 p.m. Mission Tm 7 p.m. Jr. High Group	8 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:10 p.m. AWANA 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery	9 6 p.m. MOPS  6:30 p.m. Worship Team	10 4 <sup>th</sup> –6 <sup>th</sup> graders to Sugar Pine Winter Camp Jr. Higher to Hume Lake Winter Camp	11
12 Worship 9, & 10:45 a.m.	13 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	14 10 a.m. Attendance 7 p.m. Deacons 7 p.m. Jr. High Group 7 p.m. Parenting Class	15 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:10 p.m. AWANA 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery	16	17   7 p.m. Choral Workshop	18 8 a.m. Jr. & Sr. High Skiing at Badger  9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Choral Workshop 4:30 p.m. Choral Program
19 Worship 9 & 10:45 a.m.	20 7 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers	21 10 a.m. Attendance 6:30 p.m. Session 7 p.m. Jr. High Group 7 p.m. Parenting Class	22 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:10 p.m. AWANA 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery	23	24  5:30 p.m. AWANA Bible Quiz	25 8 a.m. Jr. & Sr. High Skiing at Badger  9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come & See
26 Worship 9 & 10:45 a.m.  12:30 p.m. Come & See	27 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	28 10 a.m. Attendance  7 p.m. Jr. High Group 7 p.m. Parenting Class	29 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:10 p.m. AWANA 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery	30	31	

**SUNDAY**

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

**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) in the Chapel. Call 683-8085.
- ❖ 6:45 p.m. Women's Bible study "Jesus The One And Only" on the Parent's Room. Call 683-1754.

**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.

