



# Tell It On The Mountain

Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church

559-683-6742

May 2006

## ***Rick's Ramblings***

I am sitting in my office, with the window open, enjoying the beautiful blue sky and warm weather. It is a pretty amazing site. It is hard not to call up my friends from Arizona and say, "Hey, guess how many trees I can see out of my office window?" This is a beautiful place and Kathy and I are feeling incredibly blessed to have been chosen for this position. Thank you.

Why is it that when weather is beautiful we don't make as big a deal out of it as we do when the weather is bad? Why is it that it seems to be easier to complain than to praise? Why is it that in the church we often think it is our responsibility to complain or criticize? Why is it that we can be so hard on each other?

I Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." The instruction that we receive from the Bible is to build each other up, to encourage one another, not to tear one another down. Certainly there is a place for constructive criticism, but we need to make sure it is constructive and that it is done in love.

We all need encouragement. We do better with encouragement. Last month I went to Casa Grande, Arizona to speak at the annual banquet of Seeds of Hope (ministry that works with the poor). As I was speaking there was a group of folks who started saying "amen" when I said something really sharp. Each time they said "amen" it was louder than the time before. Soon I realized I wanted to say something really good so I could hear another "amen." I found that I was encouraged to do better by their "amen." They made me a better speaker.

Why don't we do that for each other? I will encourage you and you encourage me. I love what Mark Twain said. He said, "I can live for two months on one good compliment." It doesn't take much encouragement to put a smile on our face. Let's be known as the church that smiles.

I love being one of your pastors,

*Rick*

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

May 21st at 10:15 a.m. for the purpose of electing new officers for the coming year.

Names placed in nomination are:

**Elder Class of '07** – Dave Davis

**Elder Class of '09** – Joanne Celum, Lana Jackson, John Ramsey, Christel Biasell

**Deacon Class of '09** – Carolyn Baldwin, John & Evelyn Thor, Kathy Creighton, Loretta McKee, Dennis Creighton

**Members-at-large Class of '07** – Fred Artus, Carolyn Croker, Connie Sue Badget, Janet Mattison



## **FEAST OF TENTS**

**May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Come and join us as we camp out, fellowship, worship and hear a great speaker at the church.**

**You won't want to miss it!**

**Watch for details in the Sunday bulletin.**

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Come to a dinner May  
12<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the  
sanctuary.

Support Youth  
Missions!

## SESSION NOTES AND VOTES April 18, 2006

### IT WAS NOTED...

- Average attendance for March 26 – April 16: 515  
Easter attendance was 698 for the 4 morning services.
- A short term mission trip to Shell, Ecuador will be Aug 11-25. Sign ups are encouraged.
- The youth trip to Mexico during Spring Break was a meaningful experience for our youth. They helped build houses and held VBS for children.

### IT WAS VOTED...

- To define terms for Elders and Deacons as follows:  
“Portions of terms served by Elders and Deacons will be considered a full three year term, effective July 1, 2006.”  
This policy will prevent the *classes* from becoming fragmented.
- To approve the minutes of the Regular Session meeting on March 21, 2006 as presented.
- To ratify the marriage of *Jeffrey Kirby* and *Jaymie Harrison* on April 1, 2006. The ceremony was performed by *Rev. Troy M. Eastwood* at Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church.
- To invite *Rev. Kevin Reimer* to become our Parish Associate, effective July 1, 2006.  
*Rev. Reimer* is on the staff of Azusa Pacific University and Fuller Theological Seminary in the area of Research and is the author of several books. He is a member of San Joaquin Presbytery.
- To welcome to our staff *Christy Smith* as Director of Children’s Ministry and *Amanda Hendrickson* as a Youth Intern, effective April 3, 2006.
- To accept with regret the resignation of *Nicole Mohulski*, Nursery Worker, effective April 16, 2006.
- To hold an “All Fools Worship Service” on April 30, 2006.
- To validate *Time and Space* as an alternative Worship Service at 6 pm Sunday evenings.
- To receive the corrected slate of officers for the 06-07 year.
- To hold a Special Congregational Meeting on May 21 to receive new members into our fellowship.

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

## SENIOR EVENTS

### In May . . .

We have tickets to the "New Wrinkles 2006" Sneak Preview at Fresno City College on Thursday evening May 25. Those that have attended in the past think it is outstanding. The tickets cost \$20 each. We have 25 tickets and the first 25 people who pay get them! Contact Ken Croker (658-6189) to get yours now.

### And In July . . .

The SVPC Seniors are again this year sponsoring a trip to a Fresno Grizzlies Baseball game.

Mark your calendars for Friday, July 21st. The Grizzlies are playing the Tacoma Rainier’s in a 7 p.m. game.

Our air-conditioned bus will leave the Church about 5:30PM. Last year this was a popular trip so contact us as soon as you can to reserve your spots. We will have a sign-up sheet at the Church as we get closer to the July 21st date.

Walt and Dori Hartman, 877-8704

## IT'S SUMMER (Almost)



Please come and help us clean up the amphitheater and mow down the grass on Saturday morning, May 20<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Bring leaf rakes, garden rakes, scoops, weed-eaters, riding lawn mowers, and large plastic trash bags.

See you there!

Larry Poffenberger  
Building & Grounds Elder

**SEEKING FULL TIME CAMP REGISTRAR AT CALVIN CREST CONFERENCES**-An opportunity to serve Jesus Christ in a vital ministry and beautiful surroundings year round. Requires strong people skills and administrative abilities. Must be able to negotiate contracts, oversee and coordinate the work of assistants and keep cool under pressure. On the job training available. To begin in May, 2006.

Apply by calling Executive Director Rick Irish at 559-683-4450. Learn more about Calvin Crest at [www.calvincrest.com](http://www.calvincrest.com).

## STROKE IDENTIFICATION

(Remember the first three letters of the word, stroke)

During a BBQ, a friend stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics) and had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes. They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food - while she appeared a bit shaken-up, Ingrid went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening. Ingrid's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital - she had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Ingrid would be with us today. Some don't die. They end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

### RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Thank God for the sense to remember the "3" steps, STR - Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

**S** \*Ask the individual to SMILE.

**T** \*Ask the person to TALK ... to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today)

**R** \*Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

### In Concert

**Scott Wesley Brown** "Look What God is Doing"  
Concert of Worship & Praise

Special Guest Speaker **Gracia Burnham**  
author of "In The Presence Of My Enemies"  
and "To Fly Again"

Friday, May 5, 2006 at 7 p.m.

at Riverpark Bible Church Fresno  
7500 N. Millbrook Ave. (at Alluvial Ave.)

## THE SIERRA VISTA PRAYER CHAIN

Please feel free to post on the prayer chain or phone in any prayer requests to the church office. We have many prayer warriors in our congregation who faithfully pray for the people and needs that are shared via this important ministry. Requests can be put on the prayer chain by calling Mary Lou Walker at 642-3954, or by posting them on our on-line prayer chain at [www.quicktopic.com/16/H/RVXHRa83jmcRZ](http://www.quicktopic.com/16/H/RVXHRa83jmcRZ). You can also receive updates from the on-line prayer chain and join us in praying by going to this site and following the direction there.

We want everyone who uses the prayer chain, both those who post prayer requests and those who pray, to remember that the needs and names posted there are always be to given the utmost privacy. If you use it to request prayer, please be assured that those who see the prayer request will not share any names outside of the circle of those praying. Because we live in a small town, and we post our requests on the world wide web, please feel free to leave out names if you feel you need to. Needs can be prayed for anonymously if necessary, the Lord knows who we are talking about!

It is our great joy and pleasure to be able to join in praising the Lord when requests have been answered/resolved. If you post a request, please allow us to join with you in praise by also posting the answer or resolution of a request. In the absence of information updating a request, or letting us know of the resolution, we will take requests off our prayer lists after they have been on for a month or more. However, we appreciate it very much when we are able to know of any resolution that has occurred.

Glad to be praying with all of you!

The Sierra Vista Prayer Team

Joanne Celum, Elder



### Thank you for your prayers

I would like to thank all of those people who prayed for me during my recent cochlear implant surgery. The surgery was successful and I can now hear with my right ear that has been deaf for many years. Currently I am undergoing listening therapy so that I can interpret the many sounds that I am now able to hear. I thank God for providing the Surgeon and the wonderful staff at UCSF hospital in San Francisco for making this miracle possible. I covet your prayers as I continue in this rather slow process of learning to hear again.

Stan Begg



**GET READY FOR  
VACATION  
BIBLE SCHOOL  
JULY 24-28, 2006  
5:30-8 P.M.**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**



Time. It is a precious commodity in today's world and I have a few questions for you to consider – 1) How long is your favorite TV show? 2) How long do you spend reading your favorite book? And 3) How long does it take to make a lasting impact on a child's life?

The children here at SVPC are sponges ready to soak up God's word. Each Sunday morning they arrive ready to hear about the promises of our Lord. And each Sunday their need is met by devoted Teachers who realize that Sunday morning is a time when they can help to make an impact on these children's lives. God is alive and living in the midst of our Sunday School classes. Children are discovering how much God loves them and what it means to live a life devoted to Him. Children's lives are changing!

As you are taking an inventory of your time, I encourage you to think ahead to Summer. Will you consider setting aside time to change the lives of our little ones? VBS is right around the corner and we are looking for volunteers who desire to spend their time in impacting children's lives for Jesus. Pray now about how God is calling you into spending time with the children here at SVPC. Don't miss out on your chance to make a lasting impact!

Christy Smith,  
Children's Ministry Director

**MISSIONS**

I want to encourage you to consider becoming a "son or daughter of encouragement" or a Barnabas to our missionaries and/or mission agencies. Many of our missionaries have had a Barnabas team but we have not been able to cover all of them or any of our agencies.

A Barnabas team or Mission Care Team is a small group of people (6-10) who take responsibility to diligently see that their missionary is cared for – spiritually, emotionally, and physically – and lacking in nothing (Titus 3:15).

This does not mean that the support/care team does everything or that it meet all the missionary's needs, but it does mean that this small group or committed friends provides special care and prayer. The support team bonds to the missionary beyond what the broad base of financial/prayer supporters can do. You would create an atmosphere for confidential sharing.

The type and extent of practical care depends on the desires and creativity of the support team in consultation with the missionary. There are fun practical ways to help and to feel a part of the missionary's journey and ministry. As a mission team we have helps for you in this area.

A team forms in a variety of ways. It may be your new Forklifters group that meets once a month, or a Bible study/covenant group, a Sunday School class, or a group of friends that in some way connect to one of our missionaries.

We know that SVPC has many people with the 'gift of encouragement'. Rick and I have been on the receiving end of encouragement many times from this body. You have rekindled our fire and raised the level of our energy to do God's will. Glenn McDonald, in his book The Disciple Making Church, has a chapter devoted to who is your Barnabas and notes the importance of having those few very resourceful people in your lives. They are the ones who almost always "light our fire" and encourage our hearts. Wow! He also goes on to say that they don't have to be nearby in space and time to encourage us.

We hope you will prayerfully consider becoming a part of a Barnabas team. If you are interested in taking part in this vital ministry please contact Lana Jackson at 683-4311.

111 John 6-8 The Message

*"Dear friend, when you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible. They've made a full report back to the church here, a message about your love. It's good work you're doing, helping these travelers on their way, hospitality worthy of God himself! They set out under the banner of the Name, and get no help from unbelievers. So they deserve any support we can give them. In providing meals and a bed, we become their companions in spreading the Truth."*

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

Lana Jackson, Elder of Mission & Outreach



# May 2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 p.m. Stephen Ministers	2 10 a.m. Attendance 2 p.m. Prayer Tm 4 p.m. Adult Min. Tm 7 p.m. Jr. High Group	3 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:10 p.m. AWANA 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 6:30 p.m. Mission Tm 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery	4 5 p.m. Worship Team 6:30 p.m. Adult Class Bible 101	5	6
7 Worship 9, & 10:45 a.m. Communion	8 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	9 10 a.m. Attendance 6 p.m. Deacons 7 p.m. Jr. High Group	10 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	11 6 p.m. MOPS 6:30 p.m. Adult Class Bible 101	12 6 p.m. Youth Fund-raiser Dinner	13
14 Worship 9, & 10:45 a.m.	15 7 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 p.m. Stephen Ministers	16 10 a.m. Attendance 6:30 p.m. Session 7 p.m. Jr. High Group	17 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	18 6:30 p.m. Adult Class Bible 101	19	20 9 a.m. Outside All Church Workday
21 Worship 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. 10:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting	22 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	23 10 a.m. Attendance 7 p.m. Jr. High Group	24 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:10 p.m. AWANA 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery	25 6:30 p.m. Adult Class Bible 101	26	27
28 Outside Worship 9 a.m. New Members Presented  <b>FEAST OF TENTS</b>	29	30 10 a.m. Attendance 7 p.m. Jr. High Group	31 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:10 p.m. AWANA 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery			

**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 led by Paul Avent in the Parent's Room. Call 683-6742.  
❖ 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.  
❖ 6:30 p.m. Study of Genesis led by Rick Lemberg in the sanctuary. Call 683-6742

**SATURDAY**

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

