

Tell It On The Mountain

Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church

559-683-6742

June 2006

Rick's Ramblings

I have been waiting for this past weekend since I got to Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church. For last weekend was the Feast of Tents. It was terrific. There were wonderful people in attendance, great food prepared, fun kids to watch, great games to play, and terrific times of worship and teaching.

I have never seen a church do anything quite like this. I've been to churches that have a family camp. They go away to camp and those who can make the trip come. But we have the great luxury of having a great campground in our church facility. We don't have to go to camp, our camp comes to us. What a great idea.

It may seem like old hat to those of you who have been worshipping here for some time. But Kathy and I just loved worshipping outdoors. We even pitched a tent for the overnight. Truth be told, Michael and Emily Jones actually pitched the tent for us, while Kathy and I were trying to make heads or tails out of the directions. It was incredible, we slept just 30 yards from our sanctuary (and just as important, 50 yards from the men's bathroom). We even got our tent rolled with toilet paper by a few Sr. Highs who will remain nameless (until we get even).

What struck me about the weekend was the wonderful interaction between all ages. We had young and old building rockets to shoot up into the air. We had young and old cooking s'mores on the campfire. We had young and old singing songs in the amphitheater. And we had young and old trying to sing the ABC song backward. What a great place for children to see adults in action. They could see adults singing to the Lord. They could see adults loving their children. They could see adults having fun. They could see adults playing games and laughing. And yes, at times, they could see how other adults handled their disobedient children.

I loved it. I want to thank Denise and Michael Jones for all the work they put into organizing this event. Jonathan and Tod (our speaker and music leader) were terrific. Thanks to all those who helped in any way, from cooking, organizing, playing music, or just cleaning up. I particularly want to thank those of you who many might say were too old to camp out, that came and participated. I was absolutely thrilled that Joyce Green not only came, but spent the night with us. Way to go Joyce.

I can hardly wait until next year. Put it on your calendar for next year. We need to be a family together. What better place than at Feast of Tents! Thanks for letting me be your pastor!

Rick

PS: Our Presbyterian Church General Assembly meets the middle of June. Please be in prayer for this meeting as they will be making several key decisions. Fortunately for us, Amanda Hendrickson will be there representing San Joaquin Presbytery. Please pray for Amanda as well.

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CONNECTIONS

Don't look now, but the person sitting right next to you in worship may have something in common with you. Maybe you grew up in the same area, maybe your parents worked at the same company, maybe you both have three children. It could be a shared interest in cycling, quilting, ministry, computer games, movies, or any number of activities. Or it could be something more significant: you each have a friend with a life-threatening illness, have lost an important relationship, or are caring for an aging parent.

Finding common ground with another person is one of God's precious surprises for us. It's how we make connections; it's how we build community. It's one of the many ways He shows His love for us. It is often unexpected, but never unplanned. God is specific about bringing people together. It happens all the time.

The kingdom of God lives in these everyday moments. They are an act of worship. God uses the experiences of our lives to show His love by bringing comfort to others.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

II Cor. 1:3-4

Ronna Hendrickson
Membership/Assimilation Elder



NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday May 28th, we welcomed 12 new members into our fellowship.

These people have made the commitment to become members of our church family and are excited about becoming involved in ministry at Sierra Vista.

Adult New Members: *Diane Huffman, Chris & Jody Coyle, Kathy Lemberg, Jim & Carolyn Whorff*

Youth New Members: *Aspen Setaro, Caroline Fruth, Nicole Rogers, Brianna Wolters, Alex Davis, Josh Monahan*

Remember if you see someone new at church please take the time to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome!

**Clancy Shea's Fundraiser
Family Fun Day
Saturday, June 24th
At Oakhurst Community Park
Carnival style with games, bounce houses,
prizes and a raffle**



Would you like to help?

People are needed to pray, donate baked cakes, candy for prizes, and to run a booth. Contact Casey Shea at 760-5591

Clancy's story:

When Clancy was 4 months old (June 2003) he became very ill with Meningitis and then Viral Encephalitis. He was in a coma for 4 days. In the weeks and months that followed, it became clear that his life would never be the same. Clancy was eventually diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy.

Since his diagnosis Clancy has been receiving Physical and Occupational Therapy, as well as Cranial Sacral Therapy, a massage that is designed to open the passages in the brain enabling proper stimulation of the nervous system.

Clancy, his mom and grandmother are going to Euromed Rehabilitation Clinic in Poland September 11, 2006. There he will receive specialized therapy. This will be his second trip to this clinic. He responded very well the first time he went. He gained strength in his upper body and is able to hold himself up better. He is beginning to roll over by himself and is better able to communicate with his family.

Tax deductible donations may be given to **That's Amore' Charitable Foundation, Inc.** with "FBO Clancy Shea" written on the memo line. Checks may be mailed to Casey Shea, P. O. Box 344, Oakhurst, CA 93644.

SESSION NOTES AND VOTES

May 16, 2006

IT WAS NOTED...

- Discussion was held on chapter 3 of *"The Disciple Making Church,"* by Mc Donald.
- Attendance April 23 – May 14 was **489**.
- The installation of *Rev. Rick Lemberg* was recorded in the minutes.
- Ground Rules for conduct at Session meetings was discussed.
- We were alerted to the critical nature of the *Peace, Unity, and Purity* report to be presented and voted on at General Assembly.
- Personnel is in the process of writing an Employee Handbook for all employees.
- A Long Range Planning Commission is being formed.

IT WAS VOTED...

- To approve an Ad Hoc Committee composed of *Betty Strain, Jeanette Byl, and Don Pettingill* to review and update the Policy Handbook.
- To approve the minutes of the April 18, 2006, Regular Session Meeting Minutes.
- To receive the Statement of Operations for March and April, 2006, as presented.
- To approve the youth Mission trip to Guatemala July 10-22, 2006. They will join with *Students International* for this short term mission.
- To approve a Certificate of Transfer for *Jason Gilbert* to Lincoln Presbyterian Church, Stockton, CA.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty L. Strain, Clerk of Session

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Being a Stephen Minister is a rewarding personal experience. Here are some quotes from current Stephen Ministers:

"It has improved my prayer life."

"I have a closer walk with God."

"It is a humbling experience."

"Seeing God at work has influenced my personal growth."

"I learned so much in training, such as listening skills, that helps me in all areas of my life."

"I am amazed to see how God uses Stephan Ministers to meet needs of care receivers."

We hope to start a training class this fall or in January. Call Michelle Frasher, 683-1754, if you would like more information about becoming a Stephen Minister.

**DO YOU LISTEN SLOWLY?**

Writer and pastor Chuck Swindoll once found himself with too many commitments in too few days. He got nervous and tense about it. "I was snapping at my wife and our children, choking down my food at mealtimes, and feeling irritated at those unexpected interruptions through the day," he recalled in his book *Stress Fractures*. "Before long, things around our home started reflecting the patter of my hurry-up style. It was becoming unbearable.

"I distinctly remember after supper one evening, the words of our younger daughter, Colleen. She wanted to tell me something important that had happened to her at school that day. She began hurriedly, 'Daddy, I wanna tell you somethin' and I'll tell you really fast.' "Suddenly realizing her frustration, I answered, 'Honey, you can tell me -- and you don't have to tell me really fast. Say it slowly.'" "I'll never forget her answer: 'Then listen slowly.'"

Before your summer gets too jam-packed with activities, I hope you can make time to *listen slowly* to God. Jesus once told his disciples: "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile." (Mark 6:31) And in his earthly ministry, Jesus often made time in his busy schedule to retreat and be alone in prayer with God the Father. Jesus invites you to do the same. As a Jewish rabbi Abraham Heschel observes: "Rest is as holy as work." This summer, try spending 12 to 24 hours alone unplugged in a quiet place reading scripture and listening to God. Jesus promises to meet us when we are still and refresh us with his presence and the fruit of solitude.

Listening Slowly,

Pastor Paul

**SENIOR EVENTS****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

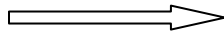


VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL

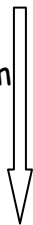
JULY 24-28, 2006
5:30-8 p.m.



To Pre-Register use the form to the right.



If you would like to help out with this year's Vacation Bible School, please fill out the form below.



Registration:

Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Telephone: _____
 School grade entering: _____ Age: _____
 In case of emergency, contact: _____
 Mother/Phone: _____
 Father/Phone: _____
 Other (relationship): _____
 Allergies or Medical Conditions: _____
 Home Church: _____

T-shirt (cost \$3 each) indicate how many of each size:

Child: small _____ medium _____
 Youth: large _____
 Adult: medium _____ large _____
 I'll bring a t-shirt from home _____



Other children in the same family:

Name: _____
 School grade entering: _____ Age: _____
 Allergies or Medical Conditions: _____
 Name: _____
 School grade entering: _____ Age: _____
 Allergies or Medical Conditions: _____
 Name: _____
 School grade entering: _____ Age: _____
 Allergies or Medical Conditions: _____

Before VBS, I would like to help with:

- ___ Praying for teachers & students
- ___ Pre-registering students
- ___ Distributing publicity materials
- ___ Providing craft materials
- ___ Making backdrops, painting, etc.



During VBS, I would like to help in one or more of the following areas:

- ___ Teacher/Story Teller
- ___ Teacher's Helper
- ___ Preferred Age Group _____
- ___ Craft Center Helper
- ___ Snack Center Helper
- ___ Music Center Helper
- ___ Story Teller/Drama
- ___ Snack Coordinator
- ___ Missions Helper
- ___ Registration
- ___ Helper in Centers

After VBS, I would like to help with:

- ___ Praying for students
- ___ Writing follow-up postcards



During the summer, I would like to help on a rotating basis with:

- ___ Children's Church
- ___ Nursery
- ___ I would like to teach Sunday School in the fall.

Name _____
 Phone _____

Please bring this to the Children's Ministry table on the patio.



June 2006



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|--|--|---|---|--|--------|------------------------------------|---|
| Worship 9, & 10:45 a.m. Communion | 7 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 p.m. Stephen Ministers | 10 a.m. Attendance 2 p.m. Prayer Tm 4 p.m. Adult Min. Tm 7 p.m. Jr. High Group | 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery | 5 p.m. Worship Team 6:30 p.m. Adult Class Bible 101 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| Worship 9, & 10:45 a.m. | 7 p.m. Boy Scouts | 10 a.m. Attendance 6 p.m. Deacons 7 p.m. Jr. High Group | 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery | 6:30 p.m. Adult Class Bible 101 | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | |
|  Worship 9, & 10:45 a.m. | 7 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 p.m. Stephen Ministers | 10 a.m. Attendance 6:30 p.m. Session 7 p.m. Jr. High Group | 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 7 p.m. The Refinery | 6:30 p.m. Adult Class Bible 101 | | 7 a.m. Men's Ministry Breakfast | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | |
| Worship 9, & 10:45 a.m. New Officer Installation | 7 p.m. Boy Scouts | 10 a.m. Attendance 7 p.m. Jr. High Group | 10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. | 6:30 p.m. Adult Class Bible 101 | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

SUNDAY

- ❖ 1st and 3rd 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

- ❖ Starting June 15th 9 a.m. Mom's Study Group in PromiseLand led by Denise Jones & Michelle Hagen.
- ❖ 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.

