

Tell It On The Mountain

Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church 559-683-6742 February 2010

A Christian Community That Exists for the Larger Community

Relatively Relevant Ramblings From Reverend Rick Regarding February

February is a short month, but it is a good month. Even though it is short, it is filled with many good things. After all you have Presidents Day Holiday, Valentines Day and even Ground Hog's Day in this month. I want to mention several good things happening here at Sierra Vista during the month of February.

On Saturday, February 20, our Senior Highs are spending the day in Fresno. They will be working at the Fresno Community Food Bank. They will be sorting food and getting boxes ready for those who need assistance.

On Wednesday, February 17, both Jr. High and Sr. High youth groups will have a Snow Day at Fish Camp.

On Sunday, February 28, our church is having a church-wide talent show. Our Community Life Team is planning this event. It should be a lot of fun. If you have a talent (or close to a talent), please sign up and share your talent with the church. If you don't have a talent, come and watch. It should be a great time. We just want to get together and celebrate Sierra Vista.

On Sunday mornings in February our Adult Sunday School class will continue its study of Compassionate Alternatives. The class has been studying the book, "The Tragedy of American Compassion," by Marvin Olasky. This class will continue through February 21st. All are welcomed and we meet in the chapel. On the last Sunday of February we will have our all-church brunch during the Sunday school hour. New adult classes will begin on the first Sunday in March.

Finally, and personally, I will begin two study groups that will assist me with my school work. One group will meet on Thursday evenings and the other group on Thursday mornings. There was a great response to the invitation to join, and unfortunately, we couldn't accommodate everyone's schedule. I am sorry. But if you wish to join us you may. We will be studying how church should welcome people, particularly people who are significantly different from the rest of us. If that interests you, give the office a call (683-6742) and sign up.

I appreciate the opportunity to be your pastor. I think God is doing some pretty amazing things here at Sierra Vista. It is exciting to watch. I hope to see you this month at some of these gatherings. If not, I'll see you in worship. Thanks for letting me be your pastor!

Rick

Talent Show

In Celebration of Sierra Vista, we are putting on a TALENT SHOW! Saturday, February 27 at 7 p.m.

This will be a great opportunity for fellowship and fun. We all have talents and gifts and we want to see yours! Do you sing? Play an instrument? Tell jokes? Dance? How about putting on a skit with some friends?? This is your chance! Any and all talents are welcome. We'll begin signups Feb. 7th and we encourage you to sign up fast because time slots are limited. We're looking for all ages to participate! Come be part of the fun!



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SESSION NOTES AND VOTES

January 26, 2010

IT WAS NOTED...

- San Joaquin Presbytery will meet on Saturday, February 6, from 9 to 3 pm at First Armenian Presbyterian, Fresno. Session Delegates are **Jeff Altimus and Sophia Ewert**.
- Sierra Vista will host San Joaquin Presbytery will meet at on Saturday, November 13, 2010, from 9 – 3 pm.
- Attendance at Sunday Worship from December 20, 2009 through January 24, 2010: 367
- Mission Team members: **John Ramsey, Mary Dodge, Bill Dodge, Lana Jackson, Rick Jackson, Bev O’Gorman**.
- Prayer Team Members: **Joanne Celum, Betty Erford, Louise Hickman, Diane Shirey, and Jean Thibodeaux**.
- Youth Team Members: **Michael Jones, Rob Nobles, Julie Davis, Steve Wetzel, Amy Smith, and Paul De Pledge**.
- Community Outreach Team members: **Patty Bradley, Pancho Capuchino, Rick Lemberg Lily Nichols, Joan Yeatts, and Mike Rahe**.
- Worship Team members: **Tami Rose, Susan Nobles, Cathy Walker, and Sarah Ottley**.

IT WAS VOTED...

- To approve the regular Session minutes of December 15, 2009, as presented.
- To approve **Steve Ewert** as a signer on the church’s checking account at United Security Bank. Other signers are **Ronna Hendrickson, John Thor, Dennis Jones, and Betty Strain**.
- To approve a Mission Weekend on April 24-25, 2010, 4-9 pm Saturday.
- To approve a Youth Trip on February 22, 2010, to Fresno to serve at the Fresno Food Bank.
- To approve a Youth Trip to So Cal, April 8 – 10, 2010, for a short term Mission Trip and a visit to Disneyland.
- To participate in a survey through Natural Church Development.
- To record the marriage of **Christopher Robin Reneau** and **Katie Lee Wood** on January 9, 2010, at SVPC. Witnesses were **Frank Shouse** and **Alissa Beamish**. Ceremony performed by **Rev. Tim D. Wood**.
- To approve the Statistical Report for General Assembly for 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty L. Strain, Clerk of Session

OUR CHURCH FINANCES

This is an update from the Finance Ministry Team regarding this year’s budget at SVPC. During the summer months, SVPC expenditures were well ahead of income, more than \$20,000 difference. Then, throughout the fall months, giving rose and by the end of December income was close to \$5,000 more than expenditures. To change that much, so quickly, is very significant and is a sign of the faithfulness of those who attend SVPC.

Over the past year SVPC has collected over \$21,000 for the Jubilee Fund and helped numerous people with various needs like groceries, electricity bills, gasoline and propane to name a few. On January 17 an offering was taken for earthquake relief in Haiti. Contributions were still coming in during the following week and more than \$5000 was given. It is encouraging to see SVPC heading to the end of the fiscal year, May 31, with more income than expenditures. It is exciting to see where the Lord is leading SVPC as giving continues and increases; to watch and see where the Lord leads in the next year. Thank you for your faithfulness, it’s a blessing to be a part of SVPC’s ministry.

Steve Ewert, Finance Team Leader

Church Statistical Report 2009

Church Membership as of 12-31-08 = 380		Losses	
Gains		Deaths	4
17 and under	6	Inactive	<u>26</u>
18 and over	20	Total Losses	30
Certificates of Transfer	<u>7</u>		
Total Gains	33	Total Membership as of 12-31-09 = 383	

IN MEMORIAM

<i>Rita Altimus</i>	7-4-09	<i>Marshall Baker</i>	9-5-09
<i>Fred Artus</i>	11-7-09	<i>Laura Ely</i>	11-22-09

Respectfully Submitted,
Betty L. Strain, Clerk of Session

Sr. High Mission Day

Opportunity

February 20, 2010

7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

at the Fresno Food Bank

This day of service will qualify students for the April Spring Break trip to Southern California April 8-11.

For more information contact Steve Wetzel at the church, 683-6742, or by email at mokahtgs@yahoo.com.

Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy – Matt 5:7

During the Napoleonic Wars, a young battle-weary French soldier fell asleep whilst on guard duty. He was court-martialed, found guilty and sentenced to death. His widowed mother appealed her son's case to every level of command, but to no avail. Finally, in her persistence, she managed to obtain an audience with the Emperor Napoleon himself.

Falling at his feet, the woman begged him to spare her son's life, explaining he was her only child and sole means of support.

"I do not ask for justice," she said, "I plead for mercy."


"Madam, your son does not deserve mercy. He deserves to die," Napoleon said coldly.

The mother immediately replied, with a logic so touching that it changed the emperor's mind, "You are right, sir, of course. That is why I am asking you for mercy. If he were deserving, it would not be mercy."

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Sierra Vista Youth Group Calendar

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Flammable 7-8:30pm	3 Refinery 7-8:30pm	4	5 Refinery Bowling Night 7pm	6
7 Refinery Super Bowl Party 2:30-6:30pm	8	9 Flammable 7-8:30pm	10 Refinery 7-8:30pm	11	12	13
14	15 	16 No Flammable! →	17 All Youth Group Snowday @ Fishcamp	18	19	20 Refinery Mission Day 7am-12pm
21	22	23 Flammable 7-8:30pm	24 Refinery 7-8:30pm	25	26	27 All Church Talent Show! 7:00pm

Relief for Victims of the Earthquake in Haiti



Sierra Vista's Offering For Relief in Haiti

\$5,326.25 was collected for relief in Haiti followed the devastating earthquake. You were incredibly generous and the Elders of our church thank you. The money we received was sent to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. This is an ongoing program that provides emergency help all over the world. The offering we take in the Spring (One Great Hour of Sharing) is the primary source for funding Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This past year, Sierra Vista contributed \$319 to the One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for your generosity.

The following article was sent by our Presbytery Executive, Rick Irish. It describes part of the work done by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Haiti. Your money will go to help projects like this one.

Assistance for medical services in Haiti

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is pleased to announce that \$200,000 from funds designated for Haiti has been provided to the Hôpital Sainte Croix (Holy Cross Hospital) and the Faculte des Sciences Infirmiere l'Universite Episcopale d'Haiti (FSIL) nursing school in Leogane.

Hôpital Sainte Croix — a historical Presbyterian-supported hospital in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti — has served as the primary medical facility in Leogane and is the teaching facility for the nearby FSIL nursing school. It has been a center for compassionate Christian care in Leogane for decades. The nursing school has been a beacon of hope in an impoverished area, providing opportunities for young people to prepare for careers in service to their communities. It is the only baccalaureate nursing program in Haiti and the only four-year nursing school that admits male students.

In response to the January 12, 2010, earthquake, the FSIL nursing students have established 10 emergency care units throughout Leogane under the direction of the school's Dean. The grounds of the nursing school have become a triage area, with thousands of patients and other people living outdoors on the grounds. Student nurses are providing all levels of service. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and a team from Japan are now working at the nursing school, but it is anticipated that they will remain in Leogane for a limited period of time.

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Blessed are the merciful...

Sometimes we are tempted to make distinctions between those who deserve compassion and love and those who don't. In many of his parables, Jesus taught us that no sin is so great that it cannot be forgiven. He teaches us that no one's behavior is so bad that it cannot be met with a loving response. In his encounter with people, Jesus would often bestow dignity and worth on prostitutes, tax collectors, the poor, and the leper by taking the time to be with these unsavory characters and to recognize the potential for redemption and goodness in them. By doing so, he fulfills the inauguration of the reign of God in this world demonstrating to us that there is no partiality with his love. And he demands of his hearers, and of us, that our natural response to a situation is with mercy.

As we prepare for the season of the cross, perhaps we should be thinking of the people God desires for us to offer mercy: someone who has hurt you, someone you have written off, someone you avoid when you see them at church. As you plumb the depths of God's love for you, you will also discover the mercy of God for others.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Paul

The tragedy of the earthquake has created critical needs. An estimated 90 percent of the city of Leogane was destroyed in the quake. With large populations now departing Port-au-Prince for the country, it is anticipated that Leogane — a city of about 50,000, will become more populated with the displaced people. It is crucial to get electricity, plumbing, water and sanitation in this place as soon as possible to provide emergency care. Holy Cross Hospital is damaged but still standing; it is the only medical facility in the Leogane area to provide a site to perform emergency procedures, such as surgical, amputations and deliveries. There is much rampant infection in this area and the hospital is needed for intravenous antibiotic administration. Without electricity and plumbing, the minimum amount of care will not be available for victims of this quake.

Funds from PDA will be used to purchase and provide the following for the hospital: electrical power and distribution systems, water pump, storage and distribution system, sanitary sewage lines and sewage containment and disposal system, diesel generator and fuel for diesel generators and vehicles.

The abundant generosity of shared blessings makes this possible. Thank you for your continued support.

FEBRUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 2:45 p.m. ON THE ROCK 5:30 p.m. Worship Tm 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	2 9 a.m. Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Attendance 2 p.m. Prayer Team 2:45 p.m. ON THE ROCK 6:30 p.m. Mission Tm 7 p.m. Children's Min Tm 7 p.m. Flammable!	3 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 3 p.m. AWANA 5 p.m. Bell Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Praise Team 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Refinery!	4 2:45 p.m. ON THE ROCK 5 p.m. Youth Team	5	6
7 Worship 8:45 a.m. & 11 a.m. 10 a.m. Sunday School 6 p.m. Sunday 6	8 2:45 p.m. ON THE ROCK 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	9 9 a.m. Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Attendance 2:45 p.m. ON THE ROCK 6 p.m. Deacons 7 p.m. Flammable!	10 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 3 p.m. AWANA 5 p.m. Bell Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Praise Team 5:30 p.m. Community Outreach Team 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Refinery!	11 10 a.m. Rick's Study Group 2:45 p.m. ON THE ROCK 6:30 p.m. Rick's Study Group	12	13
14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> Worship 8:45 a.m. & 11 a.m. 10 a.m. Sunday School 6 p.m. Sunday 6	15 <i>President's Day</i> 7 p.m. Boy Scouts Church Office Closed	16 9 a.m. Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Attendance 2:45 p.m. ON THE ROCK 7 p.m. Flammable!	17 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 3 p.m. AWANA 5 p.m. Bell Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Praise Team 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Refinery!	18 2:45 p.m. ON THE ROCK	19	20
21 Worship 8:45 a.m. & 11 a.m. 10 a.m. Sunday School 6 p.m. Sunday 6	22 1:45 p.m. ON THE ROCK 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	23 9 a.m. Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Attendance 2:45 p.m. ON THE ROCK 6:30 p.m. Session 7 p.m. Flammable!	24 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 3 p.m. AWANA 5 p.m. Bell Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Praise Team 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Refinery!	25 10 a.m. Rick's Study Group 2:45 p.m. ON THE ROCK 6:30 p.m. Rick's Study Group	26	27 7 p.m. Talent Show
28 Worship 8:45 a.m. & 11 a.m. 10 a.m. All-Church Potluck Brunch! 6 p.m. Sunday 6						

BIBLE STUDIES

- Sun:** Bible Study at the home of David & Lee Pounds
- Wed:** 9:30 a.m. W.O.W. Women's Bible Study in the Chapel
9:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in the Parent's Room
6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study in the Parent's Room
- Sat:** 7 a.m. Promise Keepers Bible Study in the Chapel



Sarah Ottley is looking for a piano. If you have a piano that you no longer want, please contact Sarah.

