

Special Called Business Meeting

Sunday, December 16th

We are calling a special business meeting on Sunday, December 16th following the morning worship service to vote on an Associate Pastor. All members are invited to attend this meeting. Your presence will be greatly appreciated.

Children's Party

by Jane Thornell

It was a great day for pizza and games! The children's department of the Sunday School was having its first party in several years.

Pizza was the hands down choice for lunch. Rachel, Richard, Angelica, Brendan, Timothy and Christopher got to create their own pizza – pepperoni was a favorite topping. After lunch the real fun began.

The kids helped with a mission project – they put together bags of candy for the “reverse” trick or treat outreach event on Halloween. Then we played games, and everyone got a prize (that's important with children!) Each one got to make a placemat, with pictures of things they are thankful for. They really had fun designing their placemat – each one was unique.

We also had a time of devotion. We shared the message of the “Wordless Book.” This is an evangelism tool that uses colored pages (black, red, white, green and gold) to give the plan of salvation. They actually listened to the presentation, and each child got a book to take home. Please pray that God will be able to use those books to bring these children to a saving knowledge of Him.

Roberta King and I were ready for a nap when the children went home, but it was a good day!

Pastor Off to Africa

Chris Foreman will be on mission to Africa from December 24th to January 10th. This will be his eighth journey to the same university community in Rwanda. He will be staying at the Christian Fellowship House near campus. Chris will be teaching university students and local pastors.

“And pray for me, that God may open a door for my message, so that I may proclaim the mystery of Christ... Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. [Colossians 4: 3 & 4]

“Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform”

Mike Brown – Son-in-Law of Al & Jane Thornell
Branch – Marines **Rank** – Master Sergeant
Assignment – Stationed in Miramar

Nate Fielding – Grandson of Lillian Fielding
Branch – Army **Rank** – PFC Medic
Assignment – Iraq

Jenny Merritt – Great Niece-in-law of Jean Johnson
Branch – Marines **Rank** – Corporal
Assignment – Iraq

Kevin Seigal – Son of Elliott & Teresa Seigal
Branch – Air Force **Rank** – Sergeant
Assignment – Travis Air Force Base

Todd Shaw – Son of Bob & Caryl Shaw
Branch – Army **Rank** – Staff Sergeant
Assignment – 101st Airborne Special Forces

Devon Henesley – Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch – Navy **Rank** – Petty Officer 3rd class
Assignment – Overseas

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering



Week of Prayer for International Missions and International Mission Study

December 2-9, 2007

Our Church Goal:
\$ 5,007.00

Harvest Festival

by Jual Lynne Rydell

Did you miss the Harvest Festival? Well if you did you missed a great time. We had a fun time, great fellowship and great food. We played games, had door prizes, a baking contest as well as pumpkin decorating.

Our dinner was homemade Lasagna created by one of our church's great cooks; who else but Bob Shaw. Along with the main course we had salad, green beans, garlic bread and for dessert we ate the baking contest entries.

Our contest winners were: “Name the Spider” won by Char Fortner. Number of Candies in the jar won by Mary. The Door Prizes were won by Betty Costa, Marty Starry-Pardue and Jual Lynne Rydell. The Baking Contest won by Betty Costa who also won Best Costume. She was Little Bo Peep who lost her sheep. The Pumpkin Decorating contest was won by the table of Linda Baker, Ruth Cavin, Mike & Char Fortner, Timothy & Christopher Connolly and Jual Lynne Rydell.

If you missed this fun time you have another chance. Our church Christmas party is on December 8th. Be sure to join us.



My Swiss Army Knife



I often look at my life in ministry as a Swiss Army Knife with several blades. Of course the biggest ministry blade is my pastorate at First Southern Baptist here in San Lorenzo. I have dedicated my life to pasturing this flock, preaching to them from God's Word, and holding them up in prayer. I have no doubt that I am walking in God's will as I do this. My ministry priority is to build God's Kingdom as I grow this church.

The second blade in my Swiss Army Knife is my missionary outreach. During my interview for pastor at First Southern, I remarked that accepting me as pastor meant accepting my “step child” – our non-profit organization named *Come & See Africa*. This church was gracious to me and allows me to travel to Africa two times a year. Kim and I continue to minister to students at the University of Rwanda. God is so good.

The third blade is an outreach to San Quentin Prison. For several years, I have been ministering to incarcerated men in the prison chapel. From 8:00 to 10:00 am, my friend (Craig) and I pray with inmates and lead them in Bible Study. For the last few months, I have been teaching Biblical Greek to students. My class started with eighteen students, but has dwindled to three. But these remaining students are terrific! Each of these men is a light shining in a very dark place. Keep Brother Bishop, Mo, and David in your prayers.

In addition to these primary blades, a Swiss Army Knife typically contains a can opener, a finger nail file, tiny scissors, corkscrew, and other miscellaneous parts. I have all of these parts as well: preaching at a homeless shelter, visits to a convalescent home, and soon an opportunity to minister/teach at a Christian school. I thank God that I am able to minister in so many ways. I want to empty myself in the service of others, just like Jesus did.

The next time that you look at a Swiss Army Knife, consider your ministry life. What tools are you using to build God's kingdom?

Kim's Corner

On a bright Monday morning, four of us left for Golden Gate Baptist Seminary from San Lorenzo. We had a truck-full of groceries which our church prepared for seminary student families. Our church has been doing this ministry twice a year for over 20 years—once at Thanksgiving and once at Christmas. This trip was my third trip for distributing food to folks who are preparing to serve God.



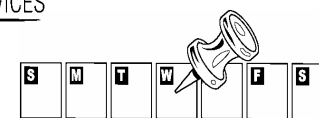
Each team member took on a role. Elmonta was a driver; Ken was communication coordinator; Elliott was map reader; and I was an advance scout. Elliott read off an address from the list and located the house on the map. Elmonta then navigated the narrow roads to find the house. Finding the right address was difficult to read in the thick Mill Valley fog. That's where I came in as the scout. I jumped out from the car and found the house that we are looking for. I signaled to the team that I had found the house, and then Elmonta drove close to the house. He waited for me to knock on the door. If someone was at home, I motioned to the team to bring the food to the house.

We were usually met at the door by women and children. When they saw strangers carrying armfuls of groceries, they were surprised. We introduced ourselves and asked them where we could put the boxes. Smiles broke out on their face with the look of “I can't believe this”. What a privilege to be part of God's work to witness His blessing to HIS children! Before we left each house, our team and the family held hands, and one of us prayed for the family. I had a chance to pray in Korean when we visited a Korean family.

The first house we knocked on was Joseph's house, a student from Hong Kong. This was his first semester at Golden Gate. When he saw three men carrying boxes of food and arriving at his door, he had a puzzled look on his face. We told him that we brought food for his family at Thanksgiving. His jaw dropped, his eyes got bigger as he saw boxes of food fill his tiny room. We gave our church card, and offered our prayers. This was probably his first Thanksgiving in America. As we were driving out of Seminary, Ken's cell phone rang. It was from Joseph. He asked if we are still on campus. He wanted to invite us to a Chinese lunch. He kept saying “Thank you, Thank you God. I believe that he experienced God's provision for him through the generosity of our church. I hope we encouraged him as he prepares to serve God.



Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm



Wednesday Evening Family Fellowship
5:00 p.m.

December Calendar

- 2nd-9th - Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
2nd - Church Council - 5:00 p.m.
5th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
8th - Church Christmas Party - 4:00 p.m.
9th - Secret Sisters Revealing Tea - 1:00 p.m.
- Lord's Supper - 6:00 p.m.
10th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.
- Christmas Caroling - 6:00 p.m.
12th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
16th - Special Called Business Meeting
- Christmas Cantata - 6:00 p.m.
19th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
24th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.
25th - Christmas Day
27th - Open Door Mission - 6:15 p.m.
31st - New York New Year's Eve Fellowship - 6:00 p.m.



- 3rd - Evelyn Calloway
- Clarence Silva
16th - Roger Calloway
18th - Roberta King
24th - Mabrie Huff
- Chris Foreman
27th - Jean Johnson
30th - J. J. Blazin
- Lisa Villafuerte



First Southern Baptist Church Newsletter

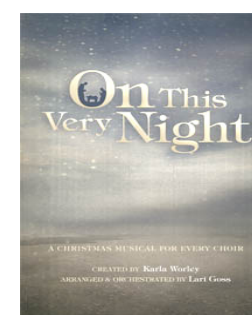
Glorifying God ~ Loving One Another ~ Reaching the World

Volume 1, Issue 12

www.fsbcsl.org

December 2007

Three December Christmas Events at First Southern



You're Invited to Our Christmas Cantata

"On This Very Night"

Sunday, December 16, 2007
6:00 p.m.

On December 16th, stand in the shoes of those who first heard the news that Christ was coming, that they were chosen to be part of the Good News. How would you respond? How do you respond to this truth right now? God is among us. Everything's changed. It's just that at Christmas, we remember it.

Invite your friends and family to this musical Celebration of Jesus Christ. Just after the cantata join in our candlelight procession to commemorate this light that came into this world. Refreshments will follow.

Church Christmas Party

Saturday, December 8th
4:00 p.m.

Plan to come to our Church Christmas Party this year for a Christmas dinner and fun. If you plan to come please sign up.

After the meal, we will sing Christmas songs, play games and exchange gifts. We ask each person attending to bring a small wrapped gift. Please limit your gift amount to a maximum of \$10.00.

If you need transportation call the church office.

Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 10th
6:00 p.m.

It's time to go Christmas Caroling. Let's put a smile on someone's face. Come join us as we gather together at the church on Monday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m. Please bring cookies or a snack for a time of warming-up afterward.



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