

## In Loving Memory of Al Marsh

On Friday, November 27th, Brother Al, released his bonds to earth and woke up at the feet of his Savior Jesus Christ. Remember the family in your prayers.

### "A Caroling We Go!"

by Jane Thornell

What do: cold weather, 6 precious ladies, two really speedy runaway dogs, a public library, 16 people crammed in two vehicles, and Bud Harrelson (former New York Mets baseball player and son of our own Rena Harrelson) have in common? They were all part of this year's Christmas caroling!

This is one of the most anticipated events of the year for many of us. It is just lots of fun, and it always bring joy to those we sing to. We had a good group of carolers again this year, and many new faces, which is always nice.

We were invited to the San Lorenzo Library. Some may have thought we could not sing Christmas carols in that public place, but we stood there by their Christmas tree and sang like we knew what we were doing! We were applauded, and several stopped to listen to us. It was a Christian witness to all who could hear us.

When the door was opened at Rena's house, their two little dogs ran lickety split out of the house before anyone could stop them! We lost several carolers who went after the dogs, trying to catch them. Rena was escorted to the door by her son, Bud, who happened to be visiting from New York. By the time we finished singing, the dogs had been found and were being brought home. It was a happy ending for all!

After visiting five homes and the library, it was time to head back to the church for Kim's good apple cider, and lots of cookies and snacks. We all had that good feeling that comes from bringing a smile to those who cannot always be in church with us. It is always an adventure and always a blessing to all. Praise God for this joyous time of the year!

## Christmas Party

by Janie Huffman

If you missed our annual Christmas party, you missed the best time ever.

Young and old alike participated in enough delicious food for an army, singing accompanied by Jean Johnson on the piano, gift exchange, fun, and fellowship.

A record was even broken with 59 in attendance and look forward to even more next year. Don't miss it.

### Reflections on the Christmas Musical

by Mary Nell McCoy

What would Christmas be like without music? Music swells from our hearts and souls out of joy at the wonder of the Christ Child coming to earth to be one of us—completely God and completely man (something we cannot truly understand until we go to be with Him in heaven forever.)

Music unites us as Christian people throughout the world. I will never forget our first Christmas in Korea, far away from home and a bit homesick, when the Korean Salvation Army band came by our house to play Christmas carols on Christmas Eve. We invited them into our living room and listened to their playing of the familiar songs that we had sung all our life. At that moment, our homesickness lifted and we praised God for the miracle of His birth. I felt that same sense of unity in our church during the musical as the choir stood around the audience watching them light their candles and singing "Silent Night". We are one body of believers throughout the world—the Body of Christ.

One of the characteristics of this church to me is seeing people give all they have to honor the King. Our thanks goes to Shauna Shoptaw, choir director and worship leader, as she serves faithfully week after week as a bivocational staff member, always giving her best. A big thanks also goes to Robbie Currie for the new sound equipment given and installed. We are so fortunate to have a sound technician so knowledgeable. I've always said the sound technician can make or break a musical presentation! Robbie and John King certainly helped to make the choir musical a worship experience for all of us.

## Kim's Corner

### Sing Hallelujah!

My son Simon visited us over Thanksgiving along with my daughter-in-law Dilia and my 9-month-old grandson Lorenzo. Each morning, Dilia would bring Lorenzo to our bedroom and put him between my husband and me. I would hold him for a while then Chris would take charge. Every time it was my turn to hold Lorenzo, I would make a sound like "Aah~~", then Lorenzo would open his mouth wide forming a perfect "O" shape. Then he would sing in a chanting monotone. When that was accomplished, Lorenzo would clear his throat and smile proudly. I think Lorenzo is going to be a singer when he grows up.

When I study Lorenzo, I see my son, my husband, my mother, and host of other family members. It is not just his physical appearance; also I see his father and his mother in his temperament. I've heard it said that no parent can gaze into the face of their new-born child and not believe in miracles.

When I see Lorenzo, I see his family resemblance. Then I think about a child who was born 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. There was a family resemblance with him too. God revealed Himself to us through His Emmanuel - "God with us". As I study Jesus, I learn about His Heavenly Father. I learn that the baby born in a manger was to become the Savior of the world; and like the heavenly host I sing "Hallelujah, Glory to God in the highest".

## The Hope of Resurrection

Years ago when I was in grade school, I heard this joke: QUESTION – “how many people are dead in that cemetery?” ANSWER – “all of them. ha ha”. That was a good joke for a 10-year-old, but now, as I think more about the question, that answer does not sound right.

So what will happen to you when you die? Will your soul live on or will you be annihilated? Will you become an angel, float on a cloud, or be reincarnated? Will you persist as an immaterial vapor in communion with other vapors and with God? What does the Bible have to say about your “personal eschatology”?

A new sermon series beginning on January 17 will answer some of these age-old questions. This series – called “The Hope of Resurrection” – is taken from First Corinthians, chapter 15, which is often called “the resurrection chapter” of the Bible. The 10-part sermon series – beginning in January and running through April – will conclude on “Resurrection Sunday” [also known as “Easter”]. Along the way, you’ll learn that resurrection is cornerstone to the Christian Gospel and that “if only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. [1 Corinthians 15:19]” You’ll learn that just as Jesus rose from the dead with a resurrected body, so also a resurrected body in store for you, his follower.

So, “how many people are dead in that cemetery?” None! There are no people in that cemetery at all, but only the remains of people who have since died. The people themselves are elsewhere. And the people of God are waiting for the day “when the perishable will be clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. [1 Corinthians 15:53]”

*“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 Japan through August

**Todd Shaw** - Son of Bob & Caryl Shaw  
**Branch** - Army **Rank** - Staff Sergeant  
**Assignment** - Stationed in Kentucky

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



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



Wednesday Evening Family Fellowship  
5:00 p.m.

# January Calendar

- 6th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.  
11th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.  
13th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.  
16th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.  
17th - Lord's Supper - 10:45 a.m.  
20th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship  
23rd - EBBA Men's Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.  
Rock Harbor Christian Fellowship, San Pablo  
25th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.  
27th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.  
28th - Open Door Mission - 6:15 p.m.  
31st - Vote on 2010 Budget after a.m. Service



- 3rd - Lucille Halbach  
5th - Quentin Torres  
6th - Linda Furuyama  
- Charles Varady  
- Georgia Wheat  
10th - Debbie Machetta  
19th - Ken Abbott  
31st - Caryl Shaw



- 16th - Mike & Char Fortner  
23rd - Ken & Justine Hillard



**First Southern Baptist Church**  
15503 Usher Street  
San Lorenzo, CA 94580  
church@fsbcsl.org  
(510) 276-3688

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**January**



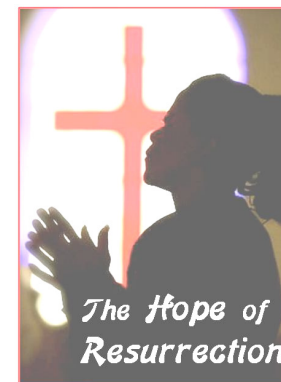
# First Southern Baptist Church Newsletter

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## The Hope of Resurrection

Come join us on Sunday mornings as Pastor Chris will be speaking on "The Hope of Resurrection" which will be starting on January 17th and continuing until Easter Sunday.

- ~ January 3 ~ The History of Redemption [Hebrews 2:1-9]
- ~ January 10 ~ Dr. Lyman Alexander - Director of Missions
- ~ January 17 ~ The Gospel Declared [1 Corinthians 15:1-2]
- ~ January 24 ~ The Gospel Defined [1 Corinthians 15:3-9]
- ~ January 31 ~ Resurrection as Cornerstone [1 Corinthians 15:10-14]

## THE PARABLES OF JESUS: CONTINUED.

If you enjoyed the sermon series addressing 13 parables of Jesus, then join us in the evening as the parable series continues. Rather than examining parables one at a time, we will be looking at nine categories of parables, covering 52 parables in all. Come and learn what the parables have to say to you.

- ~ January 17 ~ Category 1 Parables ~ The day of salvation
- ~ January 24 ~ Category 2 Parables ~ God's mercy for sinners
- ~ January 31 ~ Category 3 Parables ~ Great assurance

