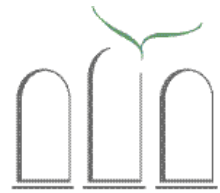


SARATOGA FEDERATED CHURCH
FEDERATED FAMILY



CHURCH ADDRESS: 20390 PARK PLACE, SARATOGA CA 95070

BUSINESS ADDRESS: 14370 SARATOGA AVE., SARATOGA CA 95070

FEBRUARY 2012



CONFIDENT PARENTING

FEATURING JIM BURNS, PHD

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

TICKETS: \$10

Register online at: bitly.com/confidentparenting2012

Free childcare available with advance reservations.

The deadline to request childcare is March 5.

Why should you come to this seminar?

Everyone who cares about children and teenagers should come to this seminar. Dr. Burns offers great advice to parents, grandparents, teachers and all those who want to help the next generation grow up to be thriving adults. We encourage you to invite friends and family members to this helpful seminar

What is Confident Parenting?

Sounds a bit like an oxymoron doesn't it? Being a confident parent is a bit like eating diet ice cream. No parents are totally confident and no family has it all together. In fact, if most of us were totally honest, we are just trying to make it through Friday. We are often overcommitted and under-connected. The pace of life is giving our sanity a real challenge. There is a need to discipline our kids with consistency and yet still be liked. We have to set boundaries with media but not go overboard. Sex, drugs and porn are screaming at all ages of kids today and many of us feel ill-equipped to handle the ever-changing cultural influences. People tell us that parents are the number one influence for our kids to develop a healthy spirituality and yet, we don't seem to always have that together either.

If you resonate with any of these issues, then the Confident Parenting Seminar is for you. It's for parents of all ages of kids. It is practical, funny, and very relevant. You will not regret this investment of your time.



ALL CHURCH LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

CONTINUING A GOOD THING...

Each of us prepares for the Lenten season in different ways. In the past several years, SFC has started the season with a Soup Supper, followed by a short service in the Chapel. Sharing a table with fellow believers, reading Scriptures, singing and praying together prepare us for this Holy time of the church. Please join us on Friday, February 17 at 6:00 pm in Richards Hall. What began several years ago as a small group event has expanded to include everyone. This year families are invited to bring their children. Child-friendly soup and crackers will be served and crafts will be available. In order to be well prepared for the evening, we would appreciate an RSVP. Please call Olivia at the church at (408) 867-1000, ext. 246.

This year's Lenten study explores life-shaping journeys and invites us to experience the presence of God. Written by Pastor Sally Bryant, the study includes ideas/questions for adults and families. We hope all small groups will join us for this study. Copies will be available at the Soup Supper and on Sundays beginning February 19. Join us as we prepare for the joyous celebration of Easter!



The Love-More Amor Show

A Mexico Benefit Talent Show

Sunday,

February 26, 2012

at 6:30 pm

in the LifeHouse (Richards Hall)

This talent show will feature the Jr. High and High School students of SFC. All proceeds will help defray the costs of the SFC Mexico house building trip.

Adult Ticket - \$10

Student Ticket - \$8

Child Ticket - \$4



SPECIAL OFFERING UPDATES

In October, Saratoga Federated Church chose Living Water International as the global outreach recipient for the Harvest offering. You generously sent \$10,000 to Living Water International in order to partner on water projects. We deeply appreciate this special partnership. Thank you.

Living Water has active projects in 24 countries around the world. Most of our work is in Africa, with a large amount of projects in Central/Latin America and India. Some of our projects are:

- Well rehab/repair - We work with an existing well that either has no hand pump or the hand pump is broken and we bring it back into full service. We are trying to complete 500 well repair projects in Haiti. Other countries served in this way include: Central African Republic, Ghana, India, Liberia, Namibia, Nicaragua and Peru.
- Shallow well drilling, with new hand pump - In this project, Living Water drills a shallow well and installs a new hand pump. Shallow wells are good for providing water to a village. Countries served in this way include: Brazil, India, Mexico and Peru.
- Deep, hard rock well, with new pump - Often times, the rock is hard and the ground water is deep. For these wells, Living Water uses a large, truck-mounted drill rig. These wells are expensive to dig due to the machinery needed. One benefit is that the deep, hard rock wells are often times good producing wells and Living Water can install an electric submersible pump, providing water to thousands of people from a single well. Countries served in this way include: Angola, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Namibia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

May God keep you safe in the palm of His hands,
John Nadolski
Director of Development, SW Region

During the Local Outreach Advent offering presentation about the Points of Light Program in Oakland, mention was made of another future program. SLICE (Saving Lives In Campuses Everywhere) was then in its infancy. The good news was that it had been invited to participate in two high schools in Oakland. Now, one month later, the program has expanded to a middle school and negotiations are underway with an Oakland academy. Total weekly program attendance at the three schools is averaging almost 300 young people. The entry of SLICE into the schools is by invitation of the school administration, but much of the impetus is from the kids themselves.

On the streets of Oakland, there is wide knowledge of SLICE, the Points of Light programs and the young men and women of the School of Urban Missions, who are daily on the streets and in the homes of the Oakland teenagers. The kids understand that the purpose of this Christ driven street evangelism is to save lives and bring the Word of God into their homes and lives, many of whom have little or no positive parental direction.

Because these are public schools, the SLICE program follows the same protocol as our local Faith Walk program at Saratoga High School. Under the slogan, "A slice of pizza, a slice of life," the programs deal with such vital topics as depression, purity, anxiety, dating, making the grade, money matters, addictions, shoplifting, alcohol, marijuana, steroids, smoking, prescriptions, gangs, bullying, suicide, pregnancy, etc. There is also an opportunity to deal with any questions that the students may ask and to counsel individually with students who desire such personal help.

We ask for your prayers for all the School of Urban Missions programs that have the potential to change the direction of an entire city. Where is our mission field? All around us!

Al Trimble
for the Local Outreach Team



GET REAL WITH LOVE - LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

February is the month when our culture focuses on love as we celebrate Valentine's Day. We see flowers for sale on the corner, making it easy to remember that special someone, restaurants offer special menus and deals, candy and wine are consumed in great quantities and approximately 144 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged (not including packaged kids' valentines for classroom exchanges), making Valentine's Day the second-largest holiday for giving greeting cards. Love – it's in the air and in our face this month. The Bible has some pretty impacting words on it, as well.

"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."
(NIV, Mark 12:28-31)

I realize that neighbors are not only those that dwell in close proximity to me, but actually anyone who is near me in my daily life. Either way that you look at it, because we are commanded to love our neighbors, it should be important that we know them.

There are probably hundreds of ways to meet neighbors, depending on our personalities, living

conditions, interests and so on. What's important is mustering the energy—and the courage—to try one or more of them. The following are offered in Discipleship Journal, a publication of NavPress and The Navigators, (Copyright © 2009.)

FROM OUR PASTORS

1. Exchange simple greetings.
2. Pass along a compliment.
3. Welcome new neighbors warmly.
4. Share a meal, a book, a skill, or your recreation.
5. Meet obvious needs or ask for help when you have a need.
6. Watch for special opportunities.
7. Organize neighborhood activities.
8. Get active in a community group or cause.

Everybody likes to be appreciated and cared for. As Christians, we have a wonderful opportunity to express Christ's love to those around us. We don't have to go far to see great needs or hurting, harried people. We don't have to go far to meet people who may become supportive friends. But we have to be willing to take the first steps and trust God to do the rest.

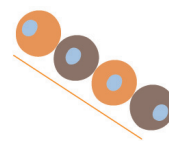
Bill Allison
Pastor of Worship Ministries



FEBRUARY PREACHING SCHEDULE

February 5	Sally Bryant <i>"So Great a Cloud of Witnesses"</i> Hebrews 12:1
February 12	Arvin Engelson <i>"Your Commitment to Growth & Contribution"</i>
February 19	Sally Bryant <i>"Change and Renewal"</i> Romans 12:2
February 26	Bill Allison <i>"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"</i> Lamentations 3:21-25

REFLECTIVE JOURNEY



If you have suffered a loss of any kind - bereavement, divorce, health, employment - please join us for the next Reflective Journey. We will spend time in meditation and fellowship and experience the power of seeing how far we have come. Refreshments will be served. Our next time together will be Saturday, February 11, from 10:00-11:30 am in Douglass Hall. If you have questions or want more information, please contact Barbara Silverstein, Grief Ministry Coordinator, at barbara@saratogafederated.org or (408) 996-0142.

ADULT MINISTRIES NEWS

ADULT EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

- *The Book of Esther* - Join us in the library on Sundays at 9:00 am to hear Jeff Davis teach on the book of Esther. Over 2,500 years ago a plan was put in place to kill all the Jews in the known world, but God saved his people through a courageous young woman who risked her life for the sake of her people. Learn how these ancient people struggled with the same issues we do in the 21st century and discover what we can learn from their actions to be effective witnesses for GOD in Silicon Valley. Bring your Bible and join us for this interactive class. This class ends February 26.

FOCUS ON PRAYER

We get a sense of how important it is for us to pray when we realize that God commands us to do so. What an amazing commandment! God, the creator of heaven and earth, invites us into dialogue with him. Won't you join us in prayer?

- All Church Prayer Times - Join us on Thursday, February 2 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, February 19 at 4:00 pm for an hour of prayer for our church. All are welcome! We meet in the library.
- Taize Prayer at Mercy Center the first Friday of the month. Contact Sally at 867-1000, ext. 233 or sally@saratogafederated.org for more information.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- Craft Night meets the second Friday evening of the month from 7:00 to 10:00 pm in Room 105. This is a great evening of crafts and conversation. For more information, contact Kim Rolston at kim.rolston@netapp.com. Newcomers are always welcome.
- Monday Moms meets every Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Childcare is provided. This group also does monthly Moms' Night Outs and other fun activities. Contact Dorothy Araldi at dorothyaraldi@gmail.com for information and to be notified about upcoming events.

GLOBAL OUTREACH

FEBRUARY GO & TELLS

February 12 - Project Mercy
February 19 - Child Hope International



MEXICO 2012 NEWS

2012 AUCTION EVENT IS COMING

Please join us on Sunday, March 4 for a fun day. Bidding on silent auction items begins at 8:30 am with the live auction beginning at 12:30 pm. A hot catered lunch by Andale's in Los Gatos will be offered with advance reservations & ticket sales. In order to get ready we'd love your help by providing both large and small auction items, such as beach or mountain retreats, golf games and meals, paintings or jewelry. Smaller items are popular as well, such as quilts or other hand-crafted items, date nights out, catered meals, valuable collectibles or antique items. In the past, Small Groups have put together themed gift baskets for auction. If you have questions or would like to send a description of your donations, please email Tim at tim@saratogafederated.org or Melinda at melinda@saratogafederated.org.



TRIP DATES: APRIL 14-21, 2012

Will you come and help us build our 100th home in 2012? We are so excited at the possibility of completing our 100th home this year. This outreach began 14 years ago as a high school trip and quickly turned into a very successful SFC "sticky faith family" event. Students, 8th grade and older, do not have to travel with their parents, and we welcome families with younger children.

There is a lot of work to be done before we leave town, therefore we encourage you to step up and help even if you will not be traveling to Mexico. For more information, contact Melinda Chase, our trip coordinator, at (408) 867-3041 or melinda@saratogafederated.org. You can speak with experienced team members in the courtyard on Sundays or in the Student Ministry office during the week. Please note, trip registration cards and the \$100 non-refundable deposit are due now.



WOMEN'S RETREAT 2012

FEBRUARY 24-26 AT MOUNT HERMON

Real Encounters with God – Life-Shaping Journeys

Longing to connect more deeply with God? Yearning for deeper friendships with other women? Ready for a rest from the hectic pace of life? Then join us at beautiful Mount Hermon for this year's women's retreat for community, worship, teaching, reflection, laughter and celebration. This year's retreat will focus on life-shaping encounters with God as revealed through scripture and the real life stories of Donna Coleman, Cindy Staffield and Sybil Wolden.

There are three room options at three different prices – economy (\$185), standard (\$230) and deluxe (\$265). Most rooms sleep 2-3 people. Accommodations include either hotel-style rooms or cabins. Register early for the greatest choice. We'll also have access to all the activities and services at Mount Hermon including: fully equipped fitness center, game room, book shop, espresso cart, snack shop, wonderful food and a variety of other activities.

Grab your girlfriends and make plans to get away for the weekend. Registration information is available at the hospitality center, online at bitly.com/womensretreat2012, on the courtyard on Sundays or contact Olivia DCosta at olivia@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000, ext. 246.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Ladies! Don't miss the annual Women's Fellowship soup luncheon Tuesday, February 7, at 11:00 am in Richard's Hall. Our own Siggie Stillman will tell of her recent missions trip to Africa, the "Stuff a Duffel" project our church supported.



Her talk, entitled "The Accidental Missionary," will include her around-the-world background and how the Lord prepared her for what she hoped for but never expected - global outreach in person. Her talk will include a power point presentation of photos and stories from Ethiopia, the Philippines and other locales.

You won't want to miss it! All ladies are welcome. For reservations, call Nancy Kamalski at (408) 255-3627.

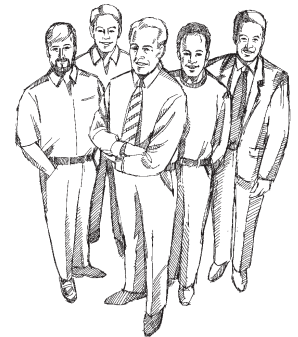
MEN'S MINISTRIES

VALENTINE'S DAY BRUNCH

FEBRUARY 11, 2012

"Pep Talk: Putting Together a Winning Marriage Team"

We are excited to welcome Pastors Steve and Ellen Steele, from Saratoga Presbyterian Church, as our guest speakers for our 3rd annual Valentine's Day Brunch on Saturday February 11, 2012 from 9:00 to 11:00 am in Richards Hall.



Steve and Ellen met as grad students at Fuller Seminary and remained "just friends" for nearly three years. After dating for two years - long distance while Ellen was at Northwestern - Steve popped the question to her on a ferryboat on Halloween night. They were married in 1998 and spent their first year of marriage figuring out how to have date nights on \$20 or less. Some of their favorite activities include exploring California together, discovering good "hole in the wall" restaurants and being parents to their two children, Jonathan and Christina. They love being a team, both in family and in ministry, and are learning more every day about both.

Tickets for this popular event are still only \$10 and on sale in the courtyard Sunday mornings beginning January 29. Men, don't miss this special opportunity to share with your Sweetheart.

Upcoming Events

March 17 - Pastor Nerses Balabanian, formerly from Lebanon: Christians and the Middle East

April 21 - Carl Liljenstope and Dick Wolden: Living Water International



March 2012 Newsletter
Deadline
Wednesday, February 8



CELEBRATING AN *Anniversary*

- 63 years - *Bob & Dru Totman*, February 13
 60 years - *Betty & Willys Peck*, February 4
 50 years - *Ron & Karen Cassel*, February 3
 46 years - *John & Helen Kahle*, February 19
 32 years - *Gary & Gayle Calkins*, February 23
 27 years - *Bill & Jill Rollinson*, February 2
 26 years - *Dan & Pam Johnson*, February 15
 24 years - *Mark & Michele Brading*, February 14



SFC & ENTERPRISE RENTAL CAR

For about 12 years, we have been using Enterprise Rental cars for our Mexico Outreach and other business related transportation/rental car needs. We recently established a new corporate account for Saratoga Federated Church. The good news is that ALL SFC church members can use our corporate account and receive the same lower rates. By using this account you will help us continue to qualify for corporate membership with Enterprise. Our corporate account number is L32F171.

You may order a car in advance of your trip by sending a request to: http://www.enterprise.com/car_rental/deeplinkmap.do?bid=002&cust=L32F171. You can also call 1 (800) 736-8222 and reference our account #L32F171. Please store this code in your phone for handy reference.



Please let us know if you move or have changes to your contact information. Be assured this information will be used only for SFC business. Send your changes to Nicki Mierzejewski at nicki@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000, ext. 250 or go to the COMMUNITY tab on our website to update your personal profile. Thank you.

Celebrations shares events and milestones of our church family. If you have a wedding, birth, baptism, new job, graduation, anniversary, etc. to share, please send the information to Nicki at the church office, (408) 867-1000 or nicki@saratogafederated.org.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through the generosity of over 450 donors our fiscal year-to-date donations as of December 31, 2011 were \$1,225,016. This means we ended the mid-point of our fiscal year virtually on target with the budget.

This is very encouraging. Once again this was a period where no one donation made the difference; rather, it was many donations from throughout our church family. Thank you to everyone who contributes to this church through their prayers and gifts of time, talent or treasure.

We continue to keep a close watch on expenses. In the coming years we hope to be able to retire our debt from the sanctuary remodel, make major improvements to the old post office building and have an increasingly effective ministry to our congregation and the community. Your continued prayers and support are appreciated

Jerry Bruce, Sr. Director of Administration



SFC FOUNDATION

Saratoga Federated Church has a foundation fund. It was established several years ago to provide a receptacle for members or anyone else to donate funds for present or future uses by the church. The primary uses of the foundation funds are for capital needs such as pastoral housing or purchasing church property.

Most foundations are funded from legacy giving out of estates or for a specific purpose. However, funds can be donated at any time. If you have any questions, please call Jerry Bruce, Senior Director of Administration, at (408) 867-1000, ext. 249.



BOOK CLUB

The book club will be meeting at the church for the next two months at 12:15 pm for a bag lunch and discussion in room 110, in the hallway below Richards Hall. Our next meeting is February 16. We will be reading *My Year with Eleanor* written by Nalle Nancock. For March we have selected *The Boy that Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba. Contact Jean Hilt at jeanhilt@comcast.net for more information.