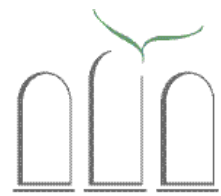


SARATOGA FEDERATED CHURCH FEDERATED FAMILY



CHURCH ADDRESS: 20390 PARK PLACE, SARATOGA CA 95070

BUSINESS ADDRESS: 14370 SARATOGA AVE., SARATOGA CA 95070

NOVEMBER 2011



Project Serve is this Sunday!

November 6, 2011
12:00-5:00* PM

The Fourth Annual Project Serve at Saratoga Federated Church takes place Sunday, November 6. We still have spaces on various projects to fill. You can sign up today online at: <http://www.bit.ly/projectserv2011> or stop by the table on the courtyard on the service day. Let's all serve together!

If you have any questions, contact Tim Galleher at 867-1000, ext. 234 or tim@saratogafederated.org.

**Depending on your project*



THE GIVING TREE IS BACK!



Again this year we will be gathering gifts to add joy in homes beyond our church family. We are excited to share God's blessings with the School of Urban Mission. So get ready! Look for our Giving Trees in Douglass Hall, in the

courtyard and in the Children's Ministry lobby. Come by and bring your family to select your tags. Tags will be available beginning November 20. Gifts are due back by Sunday, December 4. If you want to help with preparations, or delivery, contact Tim Galleher at the church office, (408) 867-1000, ext. 234.

Thank you in advance for your generosity that will bless others in the Bay Area.

CHRISTMAS IN SARATOGA 2011

On December 9, 10 & 11 we will open the doors of Saratoga Federated Church to welcome friends and neighbors into a light-hearted, high-energy musical comedy Christmas production, all designed to take Christmas from the simple fun of holiday celebration to the core of what it is...God delivering His gift of hope to the world. We know that you'll enjoy it and hope you plan to come, but our goal is something bigger. Our hope is that you will use this presentation as a creative tool to introduce friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to the Real Thing – God incarnate, introducing Himself in person through his Son, Jesus.

Almost 200 people, from little kids, students to adults, are already busy preparing this year's presentation, "Christmas in Our Town." These comments from past audiences say it better than we can:

"Just wanted to say thanks for all the time and energy you put into the Christmas program...I felt that God's spirit was present, and that it really wasn't a group of professional actors and musicians putting on the show, but members of the body of Christ who were simply participating in, and facilitating others to participate, remember, honor and worship Jesus. When you coordinate such a fun and inclusive event, you make it easy and attractive for our non-Christian friends to participate and hopefully be drawn closer to the fire."

"I loved the way all age-groups were included, not just inserted, but integral to the whole, and the zest of all was so contagious."

Mark your calendars and plan to come. Better yet, plan on inviting someone! A downloadable flyer will be available soon for you to include in an email to those in your circle of influence, as well as flyers and promo cards that you can give out along with your invitation. Our website will have all the information, too. For more information, call Diane at (408) 867-1000 or email bill@saratogafederated.org.

Please see the back page of this newsletter for ways that you can volunteer to help with this event.

THANK YOU CELEBRATION

HONORING DEBBIE STURM



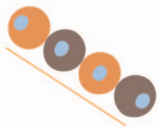
Join us in Douglass Hall (and patio – weather permitting) on Sunday, November 13 after each of the services. We will be partying to celebrate, honor and thank Debbie Sturm for the wonderful ministry she has provided to the Children and Family Ministries. Debbie joined the staff in October 2005 when

she was hired as the Kid's Town Coordinator. Debbie had been volunteering in Children's Ministry for several years prior to being hired. Since March 1, 2009, when Debbie was promoted to Director of Children's Ministries, she has been overseeing the entire children and family ministries from nursery through fifth grade.

Over the past six years Debbie has brought her infectious smile and warm heart, her love for children, parents and God and her dedication to every aspect of Children and Family Ministries. She has been the first face that many parents and their children see when they arrive on campus, not just on Sunday mornings but at numerous special events.

Please join us in thanking her for those years of service and in wishing her well as she transitions into new roles beyond SFC.

REFLECTIVE JOURNEY

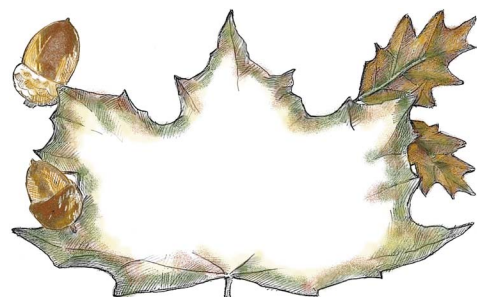


If you have suffered a loss of any kind – bereavement, divorce, health, employment – please join us for the next Reflective Journey. We will spend time in meditation and fellowship and experience the power of seeing how far we have come. Refreshments will be served.

Our next time together will be Saturday, November 12, from 10:00 to 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.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PREACHING SERIES

- | | |
|--|---|
| November 6
Project Serve Sunday | Guest Speaker, Chris Clark
<i>"Life in the Spirit"</i>
Galatians 5:16-26 |
| November 13 | Arvin Engelson
<i>"Bear One Another's Burdens"</i>
Galatians 6:1-8 |
| November 20 | Guest Speaker, John Langston
China |
| November 27
1 st Sunday of Advent | Guest Speaker, Chris & Maxie Kamalski
South Africa
<i>"Preferring Paralyzation"</i>
John 5:1-15 |
| December 4
2 nd Sunday of Advent | Sally Bryant
<i>"Real Hope"</i> |
| December 11
3 rd Sunday of Advent | Arvin Engelson
<i>"Real Love"</i> |
| December 18
4 th Sunday of Advent | Tim Galleher
<i>"Real Joy"</i> |
| December 24
Christmas Eve | Arvin Engelson
<i>"Real Peace"</i>
Christmas Eve Kids & Family Service at 4:00 pm
Candlelight Services at 7:00 & 9:00 pm |
| December 25
Christmas Morning | Sally Bryant
<i>"The Real Gift"</i>
One Combined Service at 10:00 am |
| December 31 | New Year's Eve Reflective Communion Service at 6:00 pm |



GET REAL WITH SERVICE

When I arrived at Saratoga Federated Church fifteen years ago I fell in love with the people! From my first interview, I loved listening to the stories of our congregation and how they were so passionate about ministry. I think of Mary Benson and Paula Bloom telling me about tutoring children at Nancy Lane in San Jose, Hud Staffield telling me about the latest child they were able to rescue at their orphanage in Romania, Jim and Louise Nichols talking about downtown ministry, Rita Olsen sharing about caring for homeless families and Kirt Priest sharing about his passion to reach the world with the good news of Jesus. So many people at our church really practice the command from God, “loving their neighbor as themselves.”

In 2004 when we went through *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, we were reminded that we were created to serve. Rick Warren says, “*You were put on earth to make a contribution. You weren’t created just to consume resources—to eat, breathe and take up space. God designed you to make a difference with your life. While many best selling books offer advice on how to ‘get’ the most out of life, that’s not the reason God made you. You were created to add to life on earth, not just take from it. God wants you to give something back. This is God’s fourth purpose for your life, and it is called your ‘ministry,’ or service... You were created to serve God.*”

I think that we all have the opportunity to serve every day in our families, at work, at school and wherever we go. We are called to serve one another. What first impressed me most about the people of SFC is that they intentionally practiced service every week beyond those daily opportunities we all have. They found a ministry that they cared about, that God called them to and they intentionally practiced this ministry. What is your ministry? Do you have something that you intentionally do to practice service and practice caring for those in need? During the summer, we took students on many different kinds of service projects. From packing food at CityTeam Ministries, to helping families at a Joni and Friends camp, to sorting clothes at Sacred Heart Community Services, to serving food to the homeless at Loaves and Fishes, our students had

the opportunity to practice service to others. Our hope is that our students will begin to develop a passion or a call for consistent service.

This is also why we are doing our Project Serve day on November 6. We want to get our congregation out into the community and serve. In addition to serving on November 6, our hope is that you might find a ministry that you could be involved with every month. For me, I have had the opportunity to serve in so many venues, and honestly, I love it all. But I particularly have the desire to serve our young people and to serve the poor with Sacred Heart Community Services and Amor Ministries (Mexico). I challenge you to find your call to ministry. What energizes you? What are you passionate about? If you need motivation, I have a lot of friends who would love to tell you their story and invite you into a deeper ministry of service.

Tim Galleher
Pastor of Student and Family Ministries



IET UPDATE

Over the past 18 months Spencer Sells has served Saratoga Federated Church well as Chair of the Interim Executive Team (IET). His contribution to this team has been extraordinary. Spencer has announced that he is ready for new opportunity. He and his wife Amy have increased their commitment to our Children and Family Ministry by taking the lead on the JAM 45 (Jesus and Me 4th and 5th grade) program. When you see Spencer around church please express your gratitude for his gift of service.

The Council of Elders has appointed Bob Lee to replace Spencer as a member of the IET. Bob is also serving as an Elder and Treasurer of the church. Bob’s gift of service to the church is very valuable especially during this interim between pastors. Bob is a Certified Public Accountant who leads his own company which specializes in serving not-for-profit agencies and para-church ministries.

FROM OUR PASTORS

ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP

Who Needs Estate Planning?

- Anyone for whom privacy is an issue.
- Anyone who has more than a “de minimus” estate (>\$20,000 in real property).
- Any families with children from prior marriages.
- Anyone who wants to protect family resources.
- Anyone who wants to make tax advantaged gifts.
- Anyone who wants to be a good shepherd of the resources they have been given.

The SFC Foundation is offering a workshop in which you can learn more about Estate Planning:

Estate Planning 201 - Thursday, November 10
7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Library (dessert served).

This workshop is for those who already have an estate plan, are knowledgeable about the basics but want more advanced information, want updates on current changes in the law and/or want to take the “next step” in planning. Includes a review of the law changes (they constantly change), exploring more advanced tools and understanding one of the greatest tax planning tools in America – The Charitable Remainder Trust (it defers capital gains, provides an income stream and gives an immediate tax deduction).

Sign-up on Sunday mornings in the courtyard or call Carl Liljenstolpe at (408)741-9080. Space is limited, so sign up today.



December Newsletter

Deadline

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

January 2012 Newsletter

Deadline

Wednesday, November 30



It's Not Just for Small Groups...

...it is for the whole church family! Tim Galleher recently compiled the names and addresses of our college students. SFC has more than 60 students attending college this year! Many of these students have attended SFC since their childhood, going through our Sunday school program, junior high Mad House, confirmation, and high school Life House. These students are a part of our SFC family and the future of the church.

The need for “Sticky Faith” was brought to our attention by Tim when he informed our congregation of a recent study concerning college students and the high number who leave the church during their college years. We cannot let that happen to our students and so the church is developing a “Sticky Faith” approach to ensure our students remain committed to Christ. It is our way of following God’s direction to “come along side” those needing support, encouragement, and prayers. The Small Group Team is supporting this effort by encouraging SFC small groups, families and individuals to sign up to support and connect with a student through this school year. We are hoping that through this program we, as a church family, will stay connected with our college students ensuring that the faith commitment they embraced here at SFC will remain strong and vibrant all their lives and through new experiences. We also hope to create a feeling of support and connection for the entire SFC family. Won’t you join us in this effort?

This support can be in the form of cards, letters of encouragement, prayers, and small gift packages to help the student through the start of school, exams, and finals. The response so far has been very encouraging and positive, but we still need is to distribute ALL the names so that ALL our college students feel the love and support from their home church – the SFC family. You can sign up on Sunday mornings or by contacting Camille Chapman at (408) 252-2898.

For those of you signed up, let us know your story in response to your support. We would like to share with our SFC family all the good things and responses that come from this program.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS



All who attended the Women's Fellowship Kickoff Luncheon in October were amazed and delighted by the outstanding talent of the six artists who shared their beautiful work and inspiring stories with us. Our November 1 meeting with Diana Bond sharing stories

from her April 2011 trip to Ecuador was equally wonderful.

At Circle meetings on November 15, the Bible study will be titled "*Jesus Is One of Us.*" If you are not in a circle, we would love to have you join us for Bible Study, fellowship, prayer and of course, good food! Call Joan Leonard at 741-0213 for information on joining a circle meeting.

It has been apparent for some time that the official 50 year old church dishes were just too big and heavy and hard to handle. The women decided it was time to purchase some new light weight Corelle dishes. Jerry Bruce and Melinda Chase agreed with us and the Church graciously offered to help Women's Fellowship cover the cost. So we are excited to tell you that new dishes have been purchased for our kitchen to be enjoyed by all of us at many church functions. Any of you involved in cleanup after an event will appreciate how they facilitate the cleanup, and we have more space in our cupboards now, too!



BOOK CLUB

The November meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17 at 12:15 pm in the home of Dorothy Vidlock. This month is a fun read called *Irish Country Doctor* by Patrick Taylor. It sounds like an easy book, and it is the beginning of a series of books that one of our members really loved. We thought the holidays can be busy, so a little light reading would be perfect. Bring your bag lunch. For more information contact Jeannie Hilt at (408) 984-2266.

In December will be reading *Dreams of Joy* by Lisa See. Join us in Room 111 on December 15 at 12:15 pm.

MEN'S MINISTRIES A DOORWAY OF NO RETURN

Join us at the Men's Ministries Breakfast Saturday, November 19 for the heart warming stories of Chris and Maxie Kamalski. They are building relationships and empowering youth from impoverished villages and prisons in South Africa to help them break from a life cycle of no return.



We are very pleased to feature Chris and Maxie who were married on June 4, 2011. They discovered their love for one another amid the realities of the God they jointly serve while working side-by-side through Nieu Communities South Africa and New Hope, a nonprofit organization founded in 2007 by Maxie.

Chris grew up considering Saratoga Federated Church his second home. As a couple, they are eager to spend time with friends and family for a period of rest and discernment.

Breakfast starts at 7:30 am in Richard's Hall. Tickets (\$8) will be available on the courtyard in November.

Save the date: Men's Retreat: January 27-28, 2012 at Mission Springs Conference Center in Felton.



C O M M U N I T Y *Thanksgiving* SERVICE



The annual Saratoga Community Inter-faith service on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, will be held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. The service begins at 10:00 am. Prince of Peace is located at 12770 Saratoga Avenue.

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are approaching the end of the calendar year and the midway point in our church fiscal year. So far we have had a quiet pledge campaign, consisting of a single letter and pledge card to each family and a brief mention on Sunday morning. We don't like to "beat the drums" about church finances. We do hope that each family believes in the value of contributing to God's work through the local church, your church. We believe that good stewardship is an act of faith and of obedience for each of us and for the church.

We have budgeted for modest increases in key programs, after three years of reduced spending. We have also allowed for an increase in our payroll costs over the prior year to account for the planned hire of a new Teaching Pastor during this year (though we continue to hold individual wage and salary rates at their 2008 levels). We have budgeted to maintain our commitment to missions at a rate of 14% of our overall regular ministries target. All this results in a budget that is 5% higher than last year's actual spending.

We believe we are investing appropriately in the staff, missions, programmatic and facility resources for a church of our size. There is always more ministry that could be done, but we want to be sensitive to the current economic environment. We welcome your participation financially, prayerfully and through your volunteering.

At this time, our financial support is running 20-25% behind budget. Please prayerfully consider what level of giving is appropriate for your family this year. If you are able to make an extra gift this Christmas we would appreciate that as well.



ADULT MINISTRY NEWS

ADULT EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

- The on-going class on the book of Galatians taught by Tom Priest at 9:00 am in the library is an excellent companion to the Sunday sermon series and offers testimonies from SFC members. Bring your Bible.
- The church-wide hour of prayer meets the first Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30 pm and the third Sunday of the month from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. All are welcome. We meet in the library.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- Craft Night meets the second Friday evening of the month from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. The November meeting will in the home of Kim Rolston. This is a great evening of crafts and conversation. For more information, contact Kim Rolston at kim.rolston@netapp.com. Newcomers are always welcome. *Please note: We will not be meeting in December.*
- 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 dorothy_araldi@yahoo.com for information and to be notified about upcoming events.
- Save the Date for WOW (Women Only Weekend) February 24-26, 2012 at Mount Hermon Conference Center.



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.

VILLAGE PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Village Preschool has been a part of Saratoga Federated for almost 50 years. The school offers a great start for children by getting them ready socially, emotionally, cognitively and spiritually for the school process. Local kindergarten teachers rave about the readiness of Village Preschool children and love to have them in their classes.

As our current children are settling into their fall classes, we have been receiving phone calls from families interested in applying for the next school year, 2012-2013. Village gives the first opportunity of enrollment to families from Saratoga Federated Church. So please contact the school if you or a friend might be interested in Fall 2012 enrollment.

Starting in early November families can call Village Preschool at (408) 867-3181 and schedule a visit with their child. We have many classes and different schedules, so please come and learn about our program!



Daylight savings ends on *Saturday, November 5* at midnight.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Thank You Celebration for Debbie Sturm

Join us on Sunday, November 13. See the article on page 2 for all the details.

Children's Ministry Registration Reminder

If you have not yet completed a bright blue registration form for your family for the new school year, please be sure to pick one up on Sunday. We just need one form per family. Remember there are two sides to the form so please fill both sides out completely. You can also complete the form online at our website. Thanks for helping us stay in touch with you!

We Always Need Your Help!

Children's Ministry is always in need of more teachers, assistants and substitutes to work with our children on Sunday mornings. If you are available to help out, please contact Robyn Swan at (408) 867-1000 ext 240 or robyn@saratogafederated.org.



6TH ANNUAL ADVENT RESPITE EVENT

The Advent Respite event will be on Saturday, December 3, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. (Volunteers are needed from 8:15 am to 1:30 pm.) This respite day is designed for families with special needs children and their siblings. This annual event includes a wonderful living nativity and our families look forward to it all year.

Families must pre-register for this event. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up as early as possible. Contact Debbie Lillo at bridgebuilders@saratogafederated.org or (408) 252-4160.



Celebrations!

Congratulations to *Christie (nee Buckles) and Robert Adams* on their wedding on October 8, 2011 in the sanctuary. Proud SFC parents and sister are Lawson, Lynn, and Ruthanne Adams.

For their help planning the October Single Parent Seminar, thank you to *Soheila Baniani, Stephanie Griffith, Laura Menard, Sandra Tang, Kelly Mollohan, Susan Bollman* and *Arvin Engelson*. A Special Thanks to the volunteers who helped on the day of the event and to *Dresden Erickson* and the child care team!

CELEBRATING AN Anniversary

- 65 years - *Jim & Lorene Bell*, November 16
- 64 years - *Don & Ruth Wyckoff*, November 18
- 50 years - *Jack & Sue Mallory*, November 25
- 44 years - *John & Mary Lemons*, November 18
- 42 years - *Bill & Linda Mullen*, November 22
- 35 years - *Jack & Pam Kretovics*, November 26
- 33 years - *Chuck & Janet Totman*, November 4
- 22 years - *Mark & Cathy Wilson*, November 18
- 17 years - *Spencer & Amy Sells*, November 26
- 16 years - *John & Stacy Langston*, November 18
- 10 years - *Steve & Barbara Hall*, November 17



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.

Christmas in Saratoga - How You Can Help

Putting Up & Decorating the Set

You're welcome to come for a few hours, or all day. There are tasks for everyone from skilled craftsmen to those that are most handy with a broom and dustpan. We have all tools and materials...we just need hands to use them. We provide food, too!

Here's our schedule:

Monday, Nov. 21 to Wednesday, Nov. 23	9 am – 5 pm
<i>No work on Thanksgiving Day</i>	
Friday, November 25	9 am – 9 pm
Saturday, November 26	9 am – 5 pm
Monday, November 28	9 am – 5 pm
Tuesday, November 29	9 am – 9 pm
Wednesday, November 30	11 am – 5 pm
Thursday, December 1	9 am – 5 pm
Saturday, December 3	9 am – 5 pm

Homemade Cookies

We're looking for people to provide home-made cookies for our guests at the courtyard reception following each presentation of Christmas in Saratoga. 15 people bringing 4 dozen cookies per performance would do it!

Courtyard Hospitality

We need people to help set up and serve refreshments at the courtyard reception that follows each presentation.

Childcare

We offer childcare to both participants and guests that attend the Christmas in Saratoga presentations. We need loving people willing to care for these small children, ages 3 months to 5 years.

Sunday Sack Lunches

We want to provide a sack lunch for our cast and crew of about 150 people between the two performances of Christmas in Saratoga on Sunday, December 11. We recommend that each lunch include a sandwich, a piece of fruit, chips and a sweet treat (cookie, etc.). We will be providing beverages. 25 people bringing six lunches each would fill the bill, and be a huge blessing!

Guest Services

Ushers, Greeters, Parking Lot Helpers and Transportation for the Elderly.

Prayer

Our hope is that this event will be enjoyable, excellent and effective in communicating the true message of Christ's coming. We are offering up time, talent and energy to that end, but it is the Holy Spirit who will move in hearts and lives. Join us in praying that Jesus will be magnified, clearly proclaimed and received.

To volunteer, contact Diane or Bill Allison at bill@saratogafederated.org or (408) 867-1000, ext. 238.