

THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1020 N. Prospect, Porterville, CA 93257 www.portervillefcc.com
(559) 784-1975 Rev. Joe Gentzler, Pastor FEBRUARY 2007

Pastor's Corner

A Call to Prayer

Acts 1.12-14 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away; and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

We can all see there is need for updating our approaches to working within the church. Folks are working pretty hard, yet there is so much potential for greater achievement in our goals. Yet, it would be a mistake to simply launch into change for change's sake. This simply consumes resources and adds to our life's frustration.

After Christ's ascension, the early Christians were in turmoil. The Jews were clearly intent on eliminating this religious threat. Jesus was not available in the way he had been in previous times. Resources were limited and obstacles were great, so they did the one thing they could do: they entered into a season of prayer. Rather than exploring the short-falls in their group, they began to look forward with one accord. Days later came Pentecost.

I have invited the elders to such regular prayer as a group on a weekly basis. This prayer group will not be aimed at "Aunt Susie's goiter" but rather the direction of this congregation and prayer for the in-filling of the Holy Spirit. We will include time for being quiet and waiting for the still small voice of God.

We will be meeting every Tuesday evening for one hour, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the adult classroom. We will start Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007

Pray and ask if this particular ministry is for you. If you are led to join us, please do so on a regular basis. We will not be bringing wonderful plans to these meetings. We will be listening for His answers.

Jesus said, "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest."

The time has come for getting our combine ready for action. The harvest is upon us.

Joe

**Come visit our new
website at:
www.portervillefcc.com**

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Mindi Mason 2/4
 Evelyn Wolf 2/5
 Joe Adams 2/5
 Brandy Phillips 2/9
 Randy Hamilton 2/9
 Steven Phillips 2/10
 Rhett Ryan Mason 2/10
 Rick Garcia 2/11
 Bob Kovars 2/17
 Shanda Smith 2/19
 Keai Cady 2/23
 Sheryl Johnson 2/23
 Norma Hodge 2/24
 Janie Hamilton 2/28
 Shirley Lowery 2/29

beginning of March
 Ideal Curtis 3/5
 Florence Jordan 3/6
 Rosie Ramos 3/6
 Scott Satterfield 3/7

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Wayne & Janette Harris 2/5
 Rick & Chris Garcia 2/14
 Les & Ideal Curtis 2/16
 Richard & Florence Jordan 2/28

PRAYER CONCERNS

Keai Cady, Leroy Laird, Gladys Patton, & Barbara Morris



CWF

Ladies Night Out Jan. 29 was a delightful evening filled with love, laughter & prayer. Vicky Mackey, Lisa Smith, Candy Phillips & Ella provided a great dinner. After a short business meeting, Verla Everett followed with a fun game in which we all participated. The evening ended with a beautiful devotional prayer by Arlene DePaoli.

The February & March meetings will be combined and held on Monday, March 26. Our Annual Salad Bar Luncheon will be Saturday, March 3. Tickets are \$6 Adults & \$3 children, under 10. We hope you will all attend and bring your husband, friends & relatives, as your guests.

Most of January was spent getting ready for yesterday's CWF YARD SALE. We'll have more information for you in next month's newsletter. In speaking of the YARD SALE, we have a new policy as of this date, due to storage difficulties, we will no longer accept yard sale items inventory prior to 2 weeks before the date of the next sale.

Thank you for all of your donations, work & efforts that have kept our YARD SALES successful.

Keai, Ella & Noni

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FOR FREEZE RELIEF FOR PORTERVILLE...

PLEASE HELP BY GIVING MONEY & FOOD TO:
 LOVE, INC (formerly Coordinating Council)
 368 E. Date, Porterville 793-0213

Bring these food items to church foyer
Bottled Water, Pasta, beans,
rice, corn tortillas, flour,
canned vegetables & baking soda

Thank you for your generosity!

My Child...

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1 I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2 I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3 Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31 For you were made in my image Genesis 1:27 In me you live and move and have your being. Acts. 17:28 For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28 I knew you even before you were conceived. Jeremiah 1:4-5 I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12 You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16 I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. Acts 17:26 You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 I knit you together in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13 And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6 I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44 I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16 And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1 Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1 I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11 For I am the perfect Father. Matthew 5:48 Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17 For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33 My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3 My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalm 139:17-18 And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17 I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40 For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5 I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41 And I want to show you great and marvelous things. Jeremiah 3:33 If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me Deuteronomy 4:29 Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4 For it is I who gave you those desires. Philippians 2:13 I am able to do more for you than you could

possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20 For I am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18 As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11 One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes.

Revelation 21:3-4 And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth.

Revelation 21:3-4 I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John 17:23 For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. John 17:26 He is the exact representation of my being.

Hebrews 1:3 He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31 And to tell you that I am not counting your sins.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you 1 John 4:10 I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32 If you receive the gift of my son, Jesus, you receive me. ! John 2:23 And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:38-39 Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7 I have always been Father and will always be Father.

Ephesians 3:14-15 My question is...will you be my child? John 1:12-13 I am waiting for you.

Luke 15:11-32

Love, Your Dad, Almighty God

The Smile of God

A wealthy Texas businessman told a pastor this story about his childhood. He said that when he was a little tot, he saw the sun shining through the old roof on the porch where his mother was standing.

He asked his mother what the light was. His mother knew that it was sunlight, but decided to relate the sunny spot to God.

"That," she answered, "Is God smiling down at us."

The boy walked over to stand in the light.

"What are you doing?" the mother asked.

"I'm standing in God's smile," he joyfully replied.

The little boy grew up, went into business, gained success, but drifted away from God.

After his mother died, he had the task of selling the old home and dealing with all of his mother's possessions. One day he was in the attic looking around, when he noticed a pair of children's shoes. He picked them up and discovered a folded piece of paper inside one of them.

When he unfolded the paper, he saw these words written in his mother's handwriting: "These are the shoes my little boy wore the day he stood in God's smile."

That was the day the man was challenged to change his pattern of living. Tears welling up in his eyes, the man told the minister that the experience prompted him to begin getting right with God.