

March 2009 Church Newsletter

Head Elder's Report

Why do we do what we do? It isn't so logical that we take the risk of going out and giving Bible Studies; it's not so logical that we serve as a deacon or plant plants or spend a Sunday making the church look better. We are living through at best, very difficult times and yet in this church we have made a commitment to grow. Growth keeps us healthy, but most importantly as we begin to add new members to our church we will be adding names to the "Book of Life". Ultimately there is no greater reward than being a part of that process.

In the past few days I have been reading some of Paul's letters. In the book of 2 Corinthians it says: (4:8-10) "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed perplexed but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."

It is my prayer that each day we will remember that we do carry around in our body the death of Jesus, which of course is life eternal; that we reflect that life as we interact with others.

Pastor Search

Last Wednesday evening Dennis Seaton met with the church board and the church elders to provide an update on the pastor search. Here is where we are:

- There is no immediate candidate in sight.
- The conference budget is short by approximately \$1,000,000 and so there will need to be reductions in pastoral staff of approximately 6 full-time equivalents. The hope is to do this through attrition over the next 12 to 18 months.
- They are praying and looking at pastoral options, primarily from within the conference. The time could be short or could be long. They are not willing to make a commitment to even a specific range.

What is Happening in Our Church

- The Bible studies are continuing to go well. We have more than a dozen studies in progress. We also have a significant number of church members participating in those studies.
- Winterfest practice is continuing and the sense is that this will be one of the best programs.
- The Pathfinders are working hard to raise money for the international camporee. I and they thank you for your continued support in this effort.
- Our tithe and budget giving is slightly ahead of last year, which given the economic climate is a huge blessing.
- Our church building is in better shape because of those of you who turned out for the work bee last Sunday
- BEGINNING THE FIRST SABBATH IN MARCH (MARCH 7) SABBATH SCHOOL WILL START AT 9:30. WE WILL MOVE THE START OF PRAISE SING TO 10:50 FROM 11.
- Elder Jerry Page, the conference president will be preaching on Sabbath March 7. There will be a town hall meeting right after potluck. This will be your opportunity to ask him about the pastor search or anything else you would like.

This church and each of you are in my prayers.

In the grip of grace

Steve Moran
Head Elder

Mountain View Central Youth

Dear Church Members and Friends,

Greetings from the Mountain View Central Youth group! God is good and it shows! Recently, our youth hosted a basketball tournament that was a HUGE success. We would like to extend a huge amount of gratitude to Bob Smithwick who played a big role in our event's success! Dr. Smithwick was generous enough to call around and make things easier for us and we could not be more grateful! We would also like to thank all those who attended our event in support of not only our basketball team, but our youth and our attempts to raise money for our summer mission trip to Alberta, Canada! A special thank you also goes to our players from all churches that attended including ours, and our youth who volunteered their time and effort to make all of this possible. Good work, team.

Currently, we are working on a "SHOEBOX" project that is targeted towards helping homeless and families that are less fortunate. Empty shoeboxes have been collected and now we call upon the rest of the church for your help. In each of these boxes will go certain useful materials such as toiletries (i.e. hair brush, tooth brush, toothpaste, soap, etc.), small articles of clothing (i.e. socks) and even toys for the younger ones. It is our goal to fill each of these shoeboxes and hand them out as needed. We have made it a point to really reach out to those in need especially in this time of financial woes.

I am proud to announce that a few of us from the Mountain View Central Youth were able to join with Central-Valley Fil-Am church in Fresno to pass out food, clothing and gifts for the homeless during the holidays! We were able to help out the homeless by supplying some of their needs while singing Christmas carols and sharing words of faith. Both an emotional and spiritual experience, our members were touched in helping those who have felt the sting of this financial struggle. We look forward to joining efforts with our sister church in Fresno again as we reach out to the rest of the world. Please, make an honest effort to keep our youth in your thoughts and prayers. Though we try to do our best in our church and community, we too have times of struggle and despair. We put our best foot forward when it comes to doing God's work, but even we get caught in the midst of this world. Also, remember us as we try to raise money for our very first mission trip! We know we can do it but we're going to need everyone's help! Join us, as we push for a better, brighter future...in fellowship and service.

God Bless,
Hartman Laupati, MVC Youth Leader

Every Member Plan (EMP)

The EMP committee is working on a line of greeting cards to help support the Every Member Plan fund. We will have Mother's Day, birthday and anniversary cards available soon. Watch for the news about these original cards! The price will be \$3 a card, or packs of 10 small cards for \$5. Thanks to everyone for supporting EMP through our Valentine's Day cards!

~Lani Longshore

The Mountain View Central Seventh-day Adventist Church is Going Digital!

Beginning February 2009, this newsletter will be emailed to most members. This will save the church hundreds of dollars a year in postage and printing. It will also save some trees.

We will also post the newsletter on the church website:

<http://mtviewsda.adventistfaith.org>

If you simply do not use email, let us know and we will continue mailing you a hard copy.

To verify that we have your correct email, please send a note to Roshelle Brenneise:

gibbonmonkey@juno.com.

Newsletter Procedure

Submissions for the monthly newsletter must be submitted to **Karen Chan** by the last Monday of the month **No Exceptions**. **Anything submitted after the deadline will not be included in the newsletter.**

Deadline dates:

- February 23
- March 30
- April 27
- *May 25
- June 29
- July 27
- August 24
- September 28
- October 26
- November 23
- December 28

There are three ways to submit newsletter items to Karen:

- ❖ Email – mvadventchurch@aol.com
- ❖ Phone – 650-967-2189
- ❖ Drop submission by the church office

Thank you for your cooperation

Prayer Meeting

"The prayer that ascends from a broken and contrite heart, though it should come from the lips of the lowliest saint, is never disregarded. It is as sweet music in the ears of our heavenly Father; for he waits to bestow upon us the fullness of his blessing. It is not in our power to estimate the supplies that are provided by the Lord to meet our demands. **What power might attend the church did we but call frequently and in faith for the abundant treasure of the store-house of God.** We have only begun to taste of the richness of the divine promises. It is our privilege to drink largely of the fountain of boundless love. **What a wonder it is that we pray so little! God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of his children, and yet there is much manifest reluctance on our part to make known our wants to God.** What can the angels of God think of poor, helpless, human beings, who are subject to temptation, when God's heart of infinite love yearns toward them, and **he is ready to give them more than they can ask or think, and yet they pray so little, and have so little faith?** The angels love to bow before God, they love to be near him. They regard intercourse with God as their highest joy, and yet the children of earth, who need so much help that God only can give, seem satisfied to walk without the light of his Spirit, the companionship of his presence."

- Signs of the Times, December 23, 1889

When: Wednesday

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Chapel – Mt View Central Church

For further information contact:

Roshelle Brenneise 408-371-4168

Mountain View Mountaineers Pathfinder Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sat, Mar 7	Dinner & Talent Show	6pm
Sat, Mar 14	Junior Room	2-5pm
Sun, Mar 15	Primary Room	11am – 2pm
Sat, Mar 21	Kitchen/Social Hall	1pm – 10pm
Sat, Apr 4	Sanctuary – Pathfinder Sabbath	11am
for Church. Will provide: Praise Sing, Special Music, Children's Story, Sermon. Deacons will be needed to open/close church & take care of offering		
Sat, Apr 4	Junior Room	2-5pm
Sun, Apr 5	Primary Room	11am – 2pm
Sun, Apr 19	Bike-A-Thon (location TBD)	8am-4pm
Sat, May 9	Junior Room	2-5pm
Sun, May 10	Primary Room	11am – 2pm
Sat, Jun 13	Junior Room	2-4pm
Sat, Jun 13	Chapel/Social Hall-Investiture	4-7pm
Sun, Jun 14	Primary Room	11am – 2pm

Mountain View Mountaineers Pathfinder Report

We have 6 active Pathfinders. Unfortunately, we had 3 club members leave the club at parent's request as their current schedule does not permit attendance at our events and will also keep them from attending Camporee in Oshkosh.

Since our last report we:

- Have 3 of our club members participating in Baptismal classes.
- We have 4 or 5 of our club members/staff participating in Winterfest.
- We held two fundraisers:
 - Soup supper/movie on January 24th raised approximately \$500.
 - Italian boxed dinner on February 7th raised approximately \$100.

Our next club meeting will be March 14 and 15, 2009.

Upcoming fundraisers:

- Sat, Mar 7 Dinner during All Church Social
- Sat, Apr 12 MVA Alumni dinner
- Sun, Apr 19 CCC Pathfinder Bike-A-Thon

Upcoming events:

- Sat, Apr 4 Pathfinder Sabbath, Guest Speaker:
Mark O'Ffill
 - The club will be responsible for: Praise Sing, Scripture/Prayer, Special Music, Children's Story, Offering Call. The Deacons will still be responsible to:
 - open/close the church as well as their other duties;
 - process the offering after being collected (as our staff is limited).

Courage to Stand Camporee (Oshkosh, WI, August 2009)

- The rumors that Oshkosh is going to be cancelled are not true.
- 18,468 tickets purchased to date. 276 are from Central California Conference and 956 from International clubs.
- As of today, we have 3 adults and 2 club members who have not given their final "yes" or "no" to attending Camporee. We should have confirmation by the end of this week. Ticket prices go up \$20 each effective March 2nd. We plan to purchase the final registration tickets needed by Thursday, February 27th for those who have committed to attending and raised the money for their tickets. This will enable us to keep cost down.

Sabbath School Department Report

The Sabbath School Department is pleased to announce effective Saturday, **March 7** we will be starting:

- All Sabbath School programs at **9:30am**
- A new Sabbath School program for those in grades 9 -12

<u>CLASSES</u>	<u>AGE/GRADE</u>	<u>LEADER & HELPER</u>
Cradle †Roll/Kindergarten	0 -Kindergarten	Amy Imperio Cathy Church Meredyth Purcell
Primary	Grades 1 - 4	John & Kathy Bylard Rachel Fetroe
Junior/Earliten	Grades 5 - 8	Lucila Lackey Melody Krun Joshua Imperio Vicki Knecht
Youth	Grades 9 - 12	Kaitlyn Bylard
Young Adults	College & Up	Hartman Laupati

Youth and Young Adult Class Locations - effective March 7th

Youth - Committee Room [by Pastor's Office]

Young Adults - Social Hall, Section B [or Courtyard, weather permitting]

The classrooms continue to grow:

- Cradle Roll/Kindergarten leaders are looking forward to the Church Work Be..
- Primary promoted several children to the Junior Room. The children who attend on a consistent basis are enjoying the new program helps and activities.
- Junior/Earliten program are doing well. The children apper to have lots of fun with the weekly activities planned by the leaders.
- Our You program will begin March 7th when Sabbath School classes will begin at 9:30am. They will be using the "Cornerstone" quarterly which has been prepared for their age group.
- The Audio-Visual Department has purchased two CD boom boxes for us. These will be assigned to the Primary and Junior Rooms and are for them to play the CD music for their respective song books when they do not have a pianist.
- We plan to have all the classrooms prepare a short presentation for 13th Sabbath program in March, probably during church.
- We have many leftover weekly papers that have accumulated and we have offered them to a local children's hospital. Plans are to contact other local children's hospitals and offer them the papers; including the pediatric wards of local hospitals.
- Due to the excess papers and quarterlies, we are doing a survey so we can know how many of each we should be ordering instead of guessing. This should eliminate excess papers and hopefully lower our quarterly costs.

Visitor's Lunch

We need volunteers to insure that we always have a lunch invitation for our visitors. If you are willing to share your Sabbath lunch with visitors, even once a quarter, please let us know. Any Sabbath aside from our all-church potluck on the first Sabbath would be appreciated.

It is not necessary to invite the whole church, or even the usual potluck "crew". Invite your friends and add a few extra chairs for visitors. We will provide the greeters with maps to your home on "your" Sabbath.

Please contact Pat Moran if you would be willing to help in this effort. (650) 964-4222 or moranpat@gmail.com

Pat Moran

Technologically Challenged

Take heart any of you who believe you are technologically challenged. You haven't seen anything yet. The following is an excerpt from a Wall Street Journal article:

*Compaq is considering changing 'Press Any Key' command to 'Press Return Key' due to the large number of calls asking where the 'Any' key is.

- AST technical support has a caller complaining that her mouse was hard to control with the dust cover on. Turns out that was the plastic bag the mouse was packaged in.
- A Dell customer called to complain that his keyboard no longer worked. He had cleaned it by filling his tub with soap and water, soaking the keyboard for a day, then removed each key and washed it.
- A confused caller to IBM was having trouble printing documents. The computer couldn't find the printer. He had tried turning the monitor to face the printer...but his computer still couldn't find it.
- An exasperated Dell customer couldn't get her new computer to turn on. After ensuring it was plugged in, the tech asked what happened when she pushed the power button. Her response... "I pushed and pushed on the foot pedal and nothing happens." The foot pedal turned out to be the mouse.
- Another caller said her brand new computer wouldn't work. She unpacked it, plugged it in and waited 20 minutes. When asked what happened when she pressed the power switch... "What power switch?"
- Another IBM customer had trouble installing his software and rang for support. "I put in the first disk and that was okay. I had some trouble putting in the second disk, but the third disk wouldn't fit at all. He didn't realize he had to remove a disk before inserting another.
- A woman called Canon for help with her printer. The tech asked if she was running it under Windows. The woman responded, "No, my desk is next to the door, but that's a good point. The man in the cubicle next to me is under a window and his printer is working fine."
- And last but not least: Tech Support: "Okay, Bob, let's press the control and escape keys at the same time. That brings up a task list in the middle of the screen. Now type the letter "P" to bring up the Program Manager." Customer: "What do you mean?" Tech Support: "P" on your keyboard, Bob." Customer: "I'm not gonna do that!"

"Sanctuary from the economic downturn is tough to find, even in houses of worship", was the lead sentence in my local newspaper. The article continued to point out that religious organizations, like the country as a whole, are struggling with tight budgets and putting new facilities on hold. Church staff members are being laid off or are taking a cut in salary and/or eliminating benefits such as dental coverage and matching retirement contributions. Some churches have had up to 24 percent reduction in contributions, while others are deferring a campaign to pay off their mortgage. However, the same article indicated that faith leaders have seen an increasing need to assist members and non-members with utility bills and help from congregational food closets. Maybe this could be the worst moment in the church's history when we discover that Christians give away relatively little of their money. So in this month's *Stewpot* we are asking the questions:

- Why are we not placing more dollars in the offering plate, even in times of monetary crisis, and
- What can we as members do about it?

In a recent article in *Christianity Today* titled "**Scrooge Lives!**," author Rob Moll says that at least one out of four American Protestants give away no money at all. He reports that sociologists Christian Smith, Michael Emerson, Patricia Snell, in a new study on Christian giving (*Passing the Plate*, Oxford University Press), says, "Not even a token \$5 per year." Further, from their research they pointed out that the average, regular attending churchgoer gives only 6% of his or her after-tax income. The bottom line is that the median annual giving for an American Christian is \$200, just over half a percent of their after-tax income. However, that number is skewed by the 5% of American Christians who provide 60% of all donations to local congregations and other religious groups for them to continue to operate and spread the message of God's love. Even among the most conservative Evangelical Christians, 10% give nothing away. In this same group of conservative believers, 36% report that they give away less than 2% of their income, and only about 27% give tithe.

When these facts are figured are analyzed and a comparison is made between the wealthiest and poorest American groups, the Biblical story of the widow's mite (Mark 12:42; Luke 21:1-4) has a lot of company. "Americans who earn less than \$10,000 give 2.3% of their income to religious organizations," Smith Emerson, and Snell write, "whereas those who earn \$70,000 or more give only 1.2%." In absolute terms, the poorest Christians give away nearly twice the amount of money that all but the very wealthiest Christians who earn more than \$90,000. This lack of generosity might not be as shocking if it didn't contrast so starkly with their astounding wealth. Those Christians who stated that their faith was very important to them and who attend their local church at least twice a month, collectively earned more than \$2.5 trillion dollars annually. On their own, according to these researchers, these Christians could be admitted to the G7, the group of the world's seven largest economies. If these Christians gave away a tithe of their after-tax earnings, they could contribute another \$46 billion to worldwide mission and evangelism. Smith and co-authors noted in their study how these billions of extra dollars could be spent: \$10 billion would sponsor 20 million children for a year, and just \$330 million would sponsor 150,000 indigenous missionaries in countries closed to religious workers, \$2.2 billion would triple the current funding of Bible translation, printing, and distribution. Six hundred million dollars would be enough to start eight Christian colleges in Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia.

First, a major reason Christians don't give more is because many can't. Dave Ramsey, in his article "*The Money Trap*," put it this way: "picture a church filled with passionate, loving, outrageous givers. Sadly, that requires some imagination. Surveys tell us that only three percent of evangelical Christians tithe-meaning 97 percent don't. Does that mean that 97 percent don't love their church, don't love God, and don't love Jesus? Does that mean they are greedy and swallowed up in consumerism? I used to think that. But after working with hundreds of thousands of families across the globe for decades, I've discovered that just isn't the case. They aren't greedy; they're broke." The Wall Street Journal recently stated that 70 percent of Americans are living from paycheck to paycheck. Guess what? Many of these same Americans are sitting

in church pews every week. Fixed costs in the average household have jumped from 54% to 75% of family budgets since the early 1970s, which simply means that just two buying decisions—the purchase of a home and a vehicle—are enough to lock most households into tight budgetary situations for years, if not decades. Part of church leaders' responsibility is to assist people in money management planning for the long haul with their household finances, which in turn increases parishioners' ability to give, not just because they have more money, but because they start rethinking about their personal priorities and Christian obligations.

Second, many Christians believe giving should be like Hollywood's version of romance: spontaneous, exuberant, and impulsive. They believe that financial gifts to the local church should be joyful—hence, they give only when the sermon inspires them or the mission appeal urges them to open their checkbooks. “Structured systems” such as annual pledges, write Smith, Emerson, and Snell, “seem to strike many American Christians as rigid, impersonal, legalistic, and even unspiritual.” Their conclusion was that we give our money like we spend it: haphazardly and without intention. This attitude translates to giving from our wallets and purses instead of our paychecks. Ask yourself as a church member: are you like the first century Christians at Corinth—developing and forming habits of regularly investing in God's cause through your tithes and love offerings? (1 Corinthians 16:2). Rather than week after week grabbing that one-dollar bill in your wallet and dropping it in the offering plate, make the returning of God's financial blessings to be a matter of intentional obedience, as well as a joyful expression of returning thanks to God.

Although our economy is in the midst of the worst downturn in at least 17 years, and we are in the most serious U.S. banking crisis in two decades, we have nothing to fear for both our individual or corporate futures as we remember God's continual care and goodness in the past. The truth that Charles Spurgeon spoke over a century ago is still true today, “In all of my years of service to my Lord, I have discovered a truth that has never failed and has never been compromised. The truth is that it is beyond the realm of possibilities that one has the ability to out give God. Even if I give the whole of my worth to Him, He will find a way to give back to me much more than I give.”

CHURCH BUDGET OVERVIEW, JANUARY 2009

	JANUARY	YEAR-TO-DATE	PRIOR YEAR
INCOME			
Church Budget Donations	6,763	6,763	6,012
Sabbath School Offering & Coins for Educ.	460	460	447
Rentals Transfer	3,700	3,700	3,523
TOTAL (donations & rental transfers)	10,923	10,923	9,982
EXPENSES			
Property Taxes	-	-	2,223
Salaries/Labor	5,068	5,068	6,197
Utilities	2,038	2,038	3,312
Maintenance	1,286	1,286	355
Subsidies (Miramonte & MVA)	6,170	6,170	5,996
Office, Postage	709	709	463
Sabbath School	-	-	-
Property Insurance	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	15,271	15,271	18,546
TOTAL EXPENSES OVER REVENUE	(4,348)	(4,348)	(8,564)

PASS THROUGH TO CONFERENCE OVERVIEW, JANUARY 2009

	JANUARY	YEAR-TO-DATE	PRIOR YEAR
INCOME			
Tithe	18,414	18,414	17,598
World Missions	393	393	534
Conference Donations	23	23	25
TOTAL INCOME	18,830	18,830	18,157

March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7-11am Breakfast With Friends	2	3	4 10am Bible Study 7pm Prayer Mtg. <u>BIRTHDAY</u> Leticia Acierto Pat Moran	5	6	7 9:30am Lesson Study 11am Church Elder Jerry Page POTLUCK 3-5pm Winterfest Practice 6pm Dinner & Talent Show SUNSET: 6:07pm
8 7-11am Breakfast With Friends	9	10	11 10am Bible Study 7pm Prayer Mtg. <u>BIRTHDAY</u> Damir Priskich	12 7:30pm Finance Meeting	13	14 9:30am Lesson Study 11am Church Elder Steve Moran 3-5pm Winterfest Practice 2-5pm Pathfinders Mtg. Junior Room <u>BIRTHDAY</u> Derek Knecht SUNSET: 7:14pm
15 7-11am Breakfast With Friends 11am – 2pm Pathfinder Mtg. Primary Room	16	17 7pm Church Board	18 10am Bible Study 11am Retiree's Luncheon 7pm Prayer Mtg.	19 Winterfest Practice <u>BIRTHDAY</u> Diane Ishikawa	20 SPRING Winterfest Practice Dress Rehearsal Sanctuary <u>BIRTHDAY</u> Suely Toledo Winston Chan	21 9:30am Lesson Study 11am Church Elder Roshelle Brenneise 3-6pm Pathfinders use Kitchen & Social Hall 4 & 6pm WINTERFEST PROGRAMS SUNSET: 7:20pm
22 7-11am Breakfast With Friends Pathfinder Fundraiser	23 MVA & Miram Spring Break March 23-17 <u>BIRTHDAY</u> Jeremiah Talalele Ruth Pink	24 <u>BIRTHDAY</u> Hartleigh Demchuk	25 10am Bible Study 7pm Prayer Mtg.	26 <u>BIRTHDAY</u> Hartman Laupati	27	28 9:30am Lesson Study 11am Church Elder Steve Moran <u>BIRTHDAY</u> Cathy Church SUNSET: 7:27pm
29 7-11am Breakfast With Friends	30 Cesar Chavez D Holiday--MVA No School	31 March <u>BIRTHDAY</u> Bobbie Gibbon Brian Blum Audria Machado	1 April 10am Bible Study 7pm Prayer Mtg. <u>BIRTHDAY</u> Demerol Laupati Christopher Munive	2 April	3 April	4 April 9:30am Lesson Study 11am Pathfinder Sabbath 2-5pm Pathfinder Mtg. Junior Room <u>BIRTHDAY</u> Arun Chand SUNSET: 7:33pm