

First Baptist Church

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Mission: First Baptist Church on RIDGE exists to reach people and develop them into fully devoted followers of Christ.

Reach the un-churched

Incorporate believers into the church body

Develop members into fully devoted followers of Christ

Guide members into meaningful ministry

Express joyful worship to God

ACTS 1:8

As we prepare for our 3rd Missions Dinner in preparation for "reaching the un-churched" this coming year, it is hard not to look back at some success the Lord has blessed us with.

Fulfilling of the command to feed, clothe and house the homeless (Hospitality House and Interfaith Food), ministry to those in physical need (Living Well and Relay for Life), helping the broken hearted (Haiti and Disaster Relief), and reaching the lost (Brazil, Fall Festival). I hope you find comfort in knowing that this church body is stretching it's members to live as Christ lived. Have we succeeded at every effort? No, but we are listening and learning as God directs us.

We are hoping to send missionaries to help "Feeding Those Who Feed us" in the way of a weeklong Vacation Bible School or Sports Camp this summer and an Evangelism trip to Brazil in the fall. God is growing us...not just in numbers, but in the hearts of His church and it is exciting to be a part of it. If you haven't been stretched in a while, perhaps this is your year.

Once you get stretched, you never really return to your original self **Bob McKinney**



- Annual Missions Banquet: Sunday, March 13 after 1PM
- One-Day Witnessing Seminar: April 9th 8:30 PM to 2PM

WINTER EDITION
2011

 **First Baptist Church**
Grass Valley, California

FBC

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

From The Pastor's Heart

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Pastor Mark Rindels



My Dear Church Family,
Some days I wish I had greater spiritual power! Have you wished for a greater power in your life? Maybe in the form of greater decision-making ability? A source of comfort when the pressures build up? Guidance for life's difficult decisions? Someone you could turn to when you need in-depth counseling? A source of encouragement when discouragement sets in? I'm sure you have wished for these things just like I have because you are human like me. We humans don't have all the power we need to live a life that we desire let alone what God desires.

There is a power source out there that many are unaware of. Many people live defeated, discouraged lives when they could be living in victory. Many people are weak in their Christian walk when they could be strong. Many people are impulsive when they could be decisive. Many people are discouraged when they could be encouraged. You don't have to live a powerless life. You have all the power in heaven and on earth available if you will just appropriate it. **That power is the Holy Spirit!**

I have thoroughly been blessed as God has been teaching me more and more about the Holy Spirit. As I've prepared for the sermon series "Power for Everyday Life", I've discovered **there is so much more to learn about**

the Holy Spirit. Have you ever just stepped out and tried to do something for God only to fall flat on your face? I have! Rather than finding out what God wants and joining Him in His plan, I have stepped out and tried to chart my own course. You've probably experienced the frustration that comes when you try to do God's work and there doesn't seem to be any power behind it. The longer we are Christians, the easier it is to get into auto-pilot and say, "I know how to do this." Then we step out in our own power and do it in our own strength. Unfortunately, the Kingdom of God only gets what we can give in our own strength. I'm rediscovering there is a better way!

We all need the "filling of the Holy Spirit" on a daily basis. The Bible says in **Ephesians 5:18**, "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." The interesting thing about this verse is that the phrase "be filled" is in the present tense and denotes continuous action. It literally means "be continuously filled." On a daily basis, we need to ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit. You need to put into **practice spiritual breathing exercises.** In your daily quiet time, spend time "exhaling" or breathing out your sin. That means confess your sin to God. Thoroughly examine your life, ask God to reveal any areas of sin, and then confess them. After that, "inhale" the Holy Spirit. You do that by ask-

ing Jesus to fill you with the Holy Spirit. **In spiritual breathing, you might say a prayer like this:** "Lord, I come humbly asking you for forgiveness this morning. I know I have sinned against you. [Name them]. I do not want to walk in my own power today so I ask you to fill me with your Holy Spirit. Help me today to live in the power of the Holy Spirit. Guide me, empower me, and fill me. Give me divine appointments that are led by you and help me to be a living testimony of your power in me. In Christ name I pray, Amen!" That type of simple prayer allows you to walk out of your house in the morning filled with the Holy Spirit and not with your own strength. You will not become a spiritual casualty but rather a spiritual victor. **If you will do your spiritual breathing exercises on a daily basis, you are going to be a much stronger Christian.**

As I've watched the Lord work in my life and in the life of our church this winter, **I attribute the blessings of the Lord to the power of the Holy Spirit.** God has empowered our ministry and one indicator of that is 15 baptisms we've already witnessed this new church year! Keep praying and may we all walk daily in the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Only through the Holy Spirit,

Pastor Mark

1 Cor 15:58

Youth Ministry...Pastor Adam Click



Youth Pastor
Adam Click

God is doing amazing things in our church. It was a privilege to see Indiana Clark, one of our youth, added to the growing list of Baptisms in the church this year. The youth were so excited (bet you couldn't tell) about this. It is a wonderful thing to see a group of people come together over the work of Jesus. I have seen a transformation in the group in the 6 years Leslie and I

have been working with the youth group. It has been a wonderful experience. God knows that the body functions its best when everyone contributes in their God given roles. I know that we have seen youth come together and perform these tasks to excellence. Maybe you notice the amount of youth involved in the Christmas show. Many of them are involved in our ser-

VICES. It is great to see his blessings. I look forward to the youth working together in the different activities they have this Winter and Spring and ask that you pray God brings cohesiveness to the group. Thank you for your support in this crucial time in the lives of these young people.

Pastor Adam

Music Ministry...Pastor Mark Nunn



Worship Pastor
Mark Nunn

The rehearsals for our Easter Production will begin on Wednesday, February 23 at 7:00pm....If you sang in "A Very Merry Christmas" or not....I hope you will join me as we Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior!

We are starting a new student choir for Junior High through College...Our first rehearsal will be Sunday, February 27

at 1:00pm. Please spread the word and bring a friend!

Also coming this spring... "At the Hop" a night of music from the 50s and 60s...don't miss this blast to the past...May 21 at 6:00pm

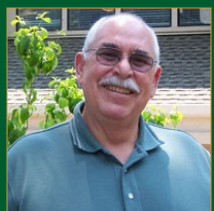
Looking forward to this New Year!

Pastor Mark



Zephaniah 3:17 "The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with his love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Pastor Mike Sanchez—From My Perspective



Associate Pastor
Mike Sanchez

God is so great! Over the last few years He has shepherded First Baptist Church through so many challenges that sometimes, I must admit, I felt despair that God would heal us and grow us again. Yet here we are celebrating new members and watching new believers baptized. How is this possible?

It's possible because we prayed and waited on God and He sent us a new pastor shepherd. We prayed and waited

on God and He sent us a new worship pastor. God has blessed us because we were willing to listen to Him and follow His Holy Spirit. As these men have led and we have followed God has blessed First Baptist Church with growth. But, as we grow, we will experience the growing pains of conflict.

In the process of growth there is always conflict. Paul addressed it in Philippians 4:2-8. "I plead with Euodia and I

plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything,

by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things." As the church grows believers can get crossways. These women were believers and in conflict. Paul calls for them to rejoice and let their gentleness be evident to all because the Lord is near.

There are folks, young and old, who are lost and dying without Christ. When I begin to get comfortable and self-centered Philippians 2:3 helps me stay in focus. It says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." And, Romans 5:7-8 reminds us of the cost of our freedom. "Very rarely will any-

one die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Can I be like Jesus and die to my wants and selfish ambitions so that someone else might find salvation? Because He love me can I love someone else? Can you?

Think about that. *Pastor Mike*



Deacon Emeritus Conferred on John Smith: January 30th, we conferred the title of "Deacon Emeritus" on John Smith for his long and distinguished service through the church in the capacity of Deacon. John has stepped down as an active Deacon due to health reasons and we feel he is very deserving of this honor. Thank-you!

KidZone

Our children's division is growing and we have been learning about truths the Bible teaches such as: Love One Another and Do What is Right. It is exciting to see some new students come to class who knew very little about God & the Bible and in a few weeks they are able to search the Bible for verses and learn the application for their daily lives! Our 9 am Session is led by Becky Swabeck and Dave Parmenter and they have children in grades 1-5 doing "Worship KidStyle." At 11 am, Ray McWhinney & Rebecca Evans teach the 4th-5th graders and Yvette Rindels, Cindy McKinney, & Penny Chaney work with the 1st-3rd graders. We are blessed to work with such a great group of children! If you are interested in helping with KidZone as a substitute teacher or assistant teacher, please let Phyllis Click know--we welcome new helpers!

Yvette Rindels & Phyllis Click

Saints Alive

We're Growing, Grouping and Gravitating Towards God in 2011

We welcome you to all of the happenings if you consider yourself a senior! And consider being a part of our planning committee since we only meet once every 3 to 4 months.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, Feb 13th—Saints Alive **Valentine Banquet**—right after church in the Upper Fellowship hall. Last year 96 seniors attended and had a great time! Sign up in the foyer so we know how many to prepare for. We will have crock pots of soup, salad, bread and dessert—Yummmmm **Also, this day we will gather all seniors in attendance for a group picture to**

be used in promoting Saints Alive in future events—Don't miss this!

Saturday, March 19th— held at Pastor Mike and Jayne's home **Saints Alive St. Patty's Potluck and Workshop** "How To Better Protect Ourselves" Speaker will be from the Grass Valley Police Department & will cover a variety of topics Watch for more info on this soon. Sunday, May 1st—is **Senior Adult Day Sunday** and all seniors will be honored that day. Pastor Mike (our resident senior Pastor) will be preaching at the blended service. After church there will be a Potato Bar Luncheon for all seniors.

Put this on your calendar and invite your parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors

Other events coming up include:

Saints Alive SMALL GROUP is being organized led by a senior and will be held at the church during the day-

time. Any senior interested in being training to lead this small group should contact Pastor Mark

Learning how to deal with Grief in 1 or 2 sessions.

"Bags For Jesus" More info to come soon on this exciting way to help the less fortunate.

River Cats game being planned for the summer.

Progressive dinner planned for Friday, July 22nd.

As you can see, "Saints Alive" are truly alive and well and actively serving and loving God and one another. Please join us! Contact Jayne Sanchez if you have any questions. 273-4224

