

“AMAZING WONDERS AVIATION” VBS Report

We had a great time encountering God’s AWESOME POWER during Vacation Bible School this year. Each Bible lesson was a vivid reminder of the many ways God shows His power in the world.

This was one of our best VBS’s ever, especially in terms of results. We had an enrollment of 71, with an average daily attendance of 57. The adult class averaged about 18 each night, which is a great testimony to God’s power, and the fantastic leadership of Ken and Sue Abbott. Two young girls, Kylah and Jazmyn, accepted Christ as their Savior! We made contact with a family near the church, and their teenage sons, Maurice and Jae’von, have been attending church as a result of their good experience in VBS!

The 4th of July fell during our week of VBS. There were over 75 people who attended our Family Day celebration of the holiday. Thanks to Ron Poolaw and a big group of helpers who worked hard to set up (and then put away) bounce houses, a sound system, games, crafts, and tables and chairs. Thank you to Jeff Machetta for cooking the hot dogs!

This year’s mission offering will be used for postage to mail the Operation Christmas Child boxes later in the year. We collected a total of \$211.51. As a VBS mission project, each age group brought items to put in those boxes as well. The adult craft was very mission oriented too. They made 22 fleece blankets to give to a shelter for abused children. It was fun to see the adults working on the blankets.

It takes a lot of team work to have an organized, effective Vacation Bible School. We had a great group of teachers and helpers, as always, and God blessed our efforts. Thank you to each one who had a part in our “AMAZING WONDERS AVIATION” adventure. If you prayed, donated money or supplies, served as a teacher or helper, or attended as a student, you played a part in showing God’s love and power through VBS.

Eva Hetzel



On Friday, July 6th, Sister Eva Hetzel released her bonds to earth and woke up at the feet of her Savior Jesus Christ. Remember the family in your prayers.

Operation Christmas Child

Don’t forget you still have the opportunity to participate in an annual outreach ministry by helping thousands of others to make a child’s Christmas something special.

This month we are asking for educational supplies such as felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, coloring book, notepad, picture or puzzle book, chalk, pencil case and stickers.

If you would like more information you can call the church office at (510) 276-3688.

Quarterly Business Meeting Sunday, August 26th 12:15 p.m.

Attention All Members - Our quarterly business meeting will be on Sunday, August 26th following the morning worship service. Your presence will be greatly appreciated as we will be voting for Church leaders.

Upcoming Retirement Luncheon Sunday, September 2nd 12:15 p.m.



Mark Your Calendar.... You are invited to come join us on Sunday, September 2nd as we celebrate Pastor Chris’s last day with a luncheon.

“Pray for Our Men and and Women in Uniform”

Devon Henesley - Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch - Navy Rank - 2nd Class
Assignment - Virginia Beach



Forgiveness is a Journey

After Kim was killed in a car crash, I began a journey. It was a journey to forgiveness. My struggle was not with God. I believe in God's sovereignty, that our times are in His hands. My struggle was not with myself. Perhaps I bore some responsibility for My wife's death because I did not insist on driving the car. My struggle to forgive was aimed at the driver of the vehicle -- Frank Murenzi, who fell asleep while driving his own car down that road in Rwanda.

Some of my closest friends could not identify with my journey. Since I was a Christian and a pastor, they assumed that my arrival at forgiveness should be automatic. "Just forgive Frank and move on" they would say. I would reply with words like, "when your wife is killed through negligence, then you will have grounds to talk". I would say, "I am cut to the bone and bleeding. I do not want revenge against Frank, but I do want justice. He belongs in jail." My miserable comforters did not witness the crumpled body of my beloved Kim lying in the roadway. Yet in time, my bitterness left and forgiveness came.

The first step in my journey was "forgiveness from the Book". I knew what Jesus said. "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors". I knew that this was not a superficial forgiveness but one from the heart. I had to become obedient to what I understood to be true. The second step for me was "forgiveness from the mind". When my imagination grew bitter and I clenched my teeth at the thought of Frank, I would mentally remind myself, "but I have forgiven him in obedience to Christ."

The third step in my journey was "forgiveness with the lips". I had to confess to myself and say it aloud to others, "yes indeed, I have forgiven Frank". The fourth step is "forgiveness of the heart". When waves of grief made my body tremble and made tears flow, it became natural not to curse Frank, but to lift him up to God.

Two final steps reach beyond forgiveness because forgiveness describes what takes place in the heart of the offended. "Reconciliation" is a kind of mutual forgiveness. And even beyond reconciliation lies "restoration". I am grateful to report that I have freely forgiven Frank for his involvement in Kim's death. We have been publicly reconciled and I have restored Frank to his previous position in Rwanda.

God has been good to me. Occasionally, a flash of unforgiveness enters my mind. I look at these thoughts as temptations and turn them over to God. I do think that there is one additional step in my journey to complete forgiveness. I'll call that "forgiveness of the redeemed". I'm not sure what that will look like, but I will experience it at journey's end in eternity.



Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm



Wednesday Morning Bible Study 11:00 am
Wednesday Evening Family Fellowship 5:00 pm

August Calendar

1st - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
8th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
11th - Women on Mission - 10:00 a.m.
13th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.
15th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
19th - Lord's Supper - 10:45 a.m.
 - Church Council - 5:00 p.m.
22nd - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
23rd - Open Door Mission - 6:15 p.m.
25th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
26th - Quarterly Business Meeting - 12:15 p.m.
27th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.
29th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.

Happy Birthday

2nd - Cindyann Lucas
7th - Shirley Halbach
10th - Robbie Currie
10th - Jane Thornell
17th - Janie Huffman
24th - Al Thornell
28th - Bea Dal Ferro
29th - Joy Lee
29th - Ann Paulson

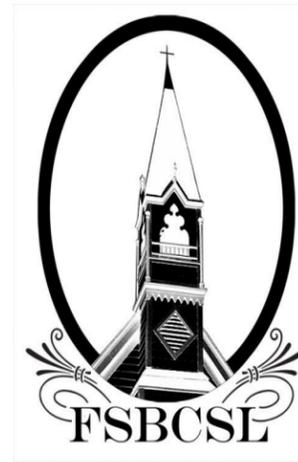
Happy Anniversary

10th - Mike & Barbara Trimble
18th - Bob & Caryl Shaw
28th - Ambrosio & Ofelia Agbayani
28th - Charles & Diane Varady
30th - Pete & Bea Dal Ferro



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Sunday Morning Messages

Come join us on Sunday Morning at 10:45 a.m. as Pastor Chris brings us two messages on love from the Gospel of Matthew starting on August 19th.

~ **August 5** ~ Associate Pastor - Ken Hillard -
Paul's Call to Apostleship - Galatians 1:11-17

~ **August 12** ~ Dr. Timothy Hines - Pastoral Candidate

~ **August 19** ~ Love for God - Priority - Matthew 22:35-40

~ **August 26** ~ Love for Others - Obedience - Matthew 5:43-47

Sunday Evening Messages

(Theological Gospel Corner)

You are invited to join us on Sunday Evenings at 6:00 p.m. as Associate Pastor Ken Hillard finishes up on August 5th with the series entitled "Justification by Faith Alone" and starts a new series on August 12th entitled "Communion of the Saints."

~ **August 5** ~ God's Gift of Faith ~ Ephesians 2:8

~ **August 12** ~ Means of Grace ~ 1 Corinthians 10:16

~ **August 19** ~ Signs and Seals ~ Romans 4:9-12

~ **August 26** ~ Signs and the Things Signified ~ Acts 2:38

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