

On This Very Night

by Shauna Shoptaw

Our Christmas Cantata was a great success this year. Once again, we brought together our choir members, singers from other churches, and our awesome narration team of Pastor Chris and Barbara Martinez. We even had a fabulous “children’s choir”, featuring Tim, Chris, Rachel and Richard. The Cantata, titled “On This Very Night” used traditional Christmas carols and contemporary pieces to tell the story of the amazing birth of Jesus Christ.

We had a “full house” for our presentation and candlelight service on December 16, with finger foods provided afterward by various congregation members (and they were GOOD EATS...!).

The choir featured the following singers: Roberta King, Kathy Musil, Debbie Machetta, MargaretAnn Fortner, Char Fortner, Joyce Thornburg, Lorraine Shoptaw, Sue Abbott, Stacie Kopet, Lisa Villafuerte, Al Thornell, Bob Shaw, Jim Fortner, Mike Fortner, Paul Schultz, Ken Abbott, and John Kopet. We did miss some of our regular members: Lucille Halbach, Jual Lynne Rydell, Elliott Siegal, and Jane Thornell, who all had to miss for various reasons this year (but we look forward to having them sing with us at Easter!).

Special thanks to our sound team, Robbie Currie and John King, for their help in making us “sound good”, and to our church pianist, Jean Johnson, for playing during the candlelight service—I don’t know many people who can sit and play Christmas songs in the dark! Finally, I would like to thank the congregation and choir for their support of the music ministry during the ten years that I have been Music Director here. It is such a pleasure to be able to work together to spread the good news of Jesus Christ!

Please make a note that we will be presenting our Easter Cantata during the morning service on Palm Sunday—March 16. We have just started rehearsing this piece, entitled “I’ve Seen Jesus.” If you are interested in becoming involved with the choir, either for the short term (helping with the Easter Cantata), or for the long-term, please speak with me or any other choir member for more information.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Praise the Lord!

We reached our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal. Our church goal this year was \$5,007.00.

New York New Years Eve Fellowship

by Jean Johnson

On December 31, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. we gathered here at the church to “Thank and Praise” God for bringing us through another year and asking His Blessings for the up-coming year.

While waiting, we dined together as we fellowshiped. Then we played pictionary. It seems some of us had a hard time drawing, but it was finally guessed.

As New York time approached, we each had a turn to give Thanks to God for bringing us thus far. Those of you that were unable to attend, you were truly missed.

By the way, no matter what kind of food we’re having, a certain person always blurts out “they’re bringing Fried Chicken and potato salad”. That man loves his Gospel Bird, but he changed his mind and brought Ham to the Cantata after everybody’s appetite was set on Chicken. After being (approached, scolded or threatened) believe me they brought chicken to the New York New Years Eve Fellowship and plenty of it. They’re back on track now.

Happy Valentine’s Day

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13:13 (NIV)

Kim’s Corner

New York Trip

Pastor Chris and the mission team left for Africa on Dec. 24th. On the same day Zach and I left for New York to visit Simon and his wife Dillia. Our plan was to spend Christmas with Simon before they left for Florida. While they were gone for the weekend, I “dog sat” for them. I didn’t realize how much work was involved in taking care of dogs. Ike and Stella started barking around 5 am. That meant they wanted out to do their thing. The first day was Okay. I let them out to their back yard and they did what dogs do. But on the second day I didn’t hear them barking. When I came out from bedroom about 8 in the morning. I saw two piles of gold (that is what Simon called it) at the doorstep. When Simon called later that day, I told him about what happened at home, he told me this never happened before. I felt guilty. What did I do wrong? I fixed their meal as Simon prescribed to me; mixing rice with dry dog food with a drop of vitamins. I felt like I was taking care of babies. Actually those dogs were like Simon and Delia’s babies. They called two or three times a day from Florida to check on the dogs and me. But enough about the dog story.



Here is my church story. I wanted to attend a church on Sunday. I Googled the Internet and found two churches that I could walk to. The first church I walked to was a Baptist church. People were standing at the church door, laughing and talking to each other. I took a few steps toward them, but no one paid attention to me. They were too busy talking. I felt awkward and unwelcome. I decided to pass that church and walked to the next church. This one was called the “New Testament Church of Christ”. A man greeted me with a big smile at their parking lot and invited me to the service. I followed him to the church, and two women at the door welcomed me with big smile. People inside the sanctuary seemed to be happy to see each other and some of them approached this stranger with a warm greeting. It was a small congregation of about 50. It reminded me of our church, and immediately I felt at home. I wondered if our church was more like the first or the second.



The Honey and the Thorn

On my birthday, December 24, I boarded a jet plane and headed off on my tenth mission to Africa. I anticipated this mission with both delight and dread.

I looked forward to meeting my old African friends and to proclaiming the Gospel in Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. However, a few days before my birthday, I learned that my Brother Jack was returning from the hospital in order to die at home. My sister-in-law explained that there was nothing more that doctors could do to treat complications after his bone marrow transplant.

Just before I left home, I emailed my Rwandan friends informing them that I might have to cut short my trip if my older brother passed away while I was in Africa. My days on mission passed by – December 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30. On the last day of the year, our church partners were planning an all night New Year’s celebration. I went to Pastor Paul’s home in an exuberant mood.



I brought with me to Rwanda a pair of 2008 glasses -- the ones where the 00 are the eye pieces. Everyone took turns wearing them. It was a joyous occasion.

Then my interpreter, Frank, told me that my son, Zachary, had just phoned him. The satellite signal was weak, but the message was clear. I had previously directed my son to contact me only in the event of my brother’s death. After a few hours of trying to contact people in America, the message was confirmed. Jack was dead. I excused myself from the festivities and walked the few steps to our mission house. Jack was dead! For some reason I had to repeat those words over and over to myself to make them real. “Jack is dead, Jack is dead”. I spoke the words as sorrow pierced my heart and tears ran down my face: “my big brother Jack is dead”.

The next day, I learned that Jack’s wife was planning a memorial service for him on January 12, two days after my return to California. I did complete my mission as planned, but sorrow accompanied joy during each of my remaining days in Africa.

I once heard that living your life is like licking honey off of a thorn bush. I know that my brother is in a better place, but there is still grief in realizing that I will never again see Jack in this world. But then maybe the next time I do meet Jack, it will be in a place with all honey and no thorns. May God be so merciful.

Chris A. Foreman
Senior Pastor



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



Mid-Week
WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday Evening Family Fellowship
5:00 p.m.

“Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform”

Mike Brown – Son-In-Law of Al & Jane Thornell
Branch – Marines **Rank** – Master Sergeant
Assignment – Stationed in Miramar

Nate Fielding – Grandson of Lillian Fielding
Branch – Army **Rank** – PFC Medic
Assignment – Iraq

Jenny Merritt – Great Niece-in-law of Jean Johnson
Branch – Marines **Rank** – Corporal
Assignment – Iraq

Kevin Seigal – Son of Elliott & Teresa Seigal
Branch – Air Force **Rank** – Sergeant
Assignment – Travis Air Force Base

Todd Shaw – Son of Bob & Caryl Shaw
Branch – Army **Rank** – Staff Sergeant
Assignment – 101st Airborne Special Forces

Devon Henesley – Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch – Navy **Rank** – Petty Officer 3rd class
Assignment – Overseas

February Calendar

- 3rd - Church Council - 5:00 p.m.
- 6th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
- 9th - EBBA Men's Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
- 10th - Valentine Luncheon - 12:30 p.m.
- 11th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.
- 13th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
- 17th - Lord's Supper - 6:00 p.m.
- 20th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
- 23rd - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
- Women's Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.
- 25th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.
- 27th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
- 28th - Open Door Mission - 6:15 p.m.



- 1st - Rena Harrelson
- 7th - Stacie Kopet
- 9th - Lorna Vinuya
- 10th - Pat Harrelson
- 11th - Sandy Tangney
- 12th - Pauline Ford
- Jonathon Jefferson
- 18th - Eugene Ivey
- 20th - Kim Foreman
- 21st - Ruth Cavin
- 23rd - Marty Starry Pardue



- 12th - Eugene & Betty Ivey



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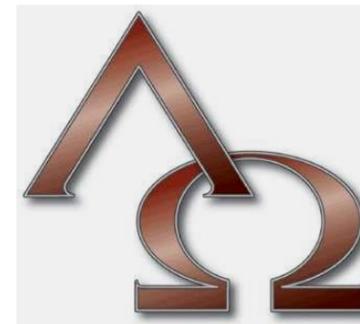
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February 2008

START The New Year with the last book and the first book in the New Testament

Listen to What the Spirit is Saying to the Churches

Join us on Sunday mornings as we take an in-depth look at
The Book of Revelation.



- ~ February 3 ~
The Vision of Christ [Revelation 1:9-16]
- ~ February 10 ~
Alive Forevermore [Revelation 1:17-20]
- ~ February 17 ~
Ephesus - The Lost Love Church [Revelation 2:1-7]
- ~ February 24 ~
Smyrna - The suffering Church [Revelation 2:8-11]

~ The Gospel of Matthew ~

Sunday Evenings for 13 weeks - January 20 to May 4

Join us for this video journey

- ~ February 3 ~
The Sermon on the Mount [Matthew Chapters 5-7]
- ~ February 10 ~
Signs of Divine Authority [Matthew Chapters 8-9]
- ~ February 17 ~
Sending Out the Twelve [Matthew Chapters 10-12]
- ~ February 24 ~
The Mystery of the Kingdom [Matthew Chapter 13]



Return Service Requested