

## Christmas Caroling

by Jane Thornell

The night was brisk, but it is December, so the air should be crisp! Thirteen people loaded into the church bus to bring Christmas cheer to several church households. We laughed, we sang, we got a bit chilly – it was a great evening for all!

It was quite a group of carolers. We had one of the group who wanted to sing songs not on the list! There was one who didn't dress warmly enough! Someone brought a voice-modifying megaphone, so we had strange voices mixed in our carols! We had a good bus driver, and not too many back seat drivers!

Everyone we sang to was very happy that we came. One lady said she hadn't had carolers come to her home in a very long time, so she was especially grateful. We sang to a pizza delivery guy. We were applauded by a next door neighbor who heard us.

We ended the evening with snacks, cookies, hot cocoa and hot cider at the parsonage with Pastor Chris and Kim. It was a great time of fellowship and Christmas spirit. This has become an annual event at First Southern, and we look forward to next year!

## Secret Sisters

by Char Fortner

On December 9th the Secret Sisters gathered together for their revealing potluck luncheon. We had a lovely time at the home of Barbara Martinez, great food and fellowship. The best thing about Secret Sisters isn't the lovely gifts that are given and received. It is knowing that someone is praying for you. We learned more about each other and how we can continue to pray for each other.

Thank you so much to Barbara Martinez for her leadership and hospitality.



**Let's make this our number 1 New Year's Resolution for 2008**

**to grow closer to Christ!**

## Kim's Corner

### Christmas Story

There were so many Santa's at our Christmas party. The room was filled with laughter and warmth for each other. Our 2007 Christmas party began with a delicious dinner which was followed by Al Thornell singing Christmas songs, accompanied by Jean Johnson at the piano. And of course we exchanged gifts. There were 42 gift-givers this year! We were blessed. We also shared unforgettable Christmas stories from our past. Here is my story.

The first time I ever heard the story of Jesus was when I was seven years old. In our small village where I grew up we didn't have a church. A young couple from a nearby city moved to our village. They invited village children into their home in the evening and taught us songs and told us the Christmas story. The first Christmas song I ever learned was "Silent Night, Holy Night". Every evening for about a week, my five year old sister and I walked to get to their place to practice singing this song.

I still remember how quiet the winter night was. The only thing that I could hear was the crunching sound of frozen snow from beneath our footsteps. Our shadows were following us as we walked through snow-covered fields under a full moon on a starry night. As we walked on that night I discovered the meaning of "Silent night and Holy night". Every time I sing that Christmas carol, my mind goes back to the place where I first heard about the child born in Bethlehem.



### "Upcoming Messages"

As we begin the year 2008, we are also beginning two brand new series of messages. Both of these are 13 weeks long and both begin on January 20 -- when I return from Africa.

The name of the upcoming Sunday morning series is "Let the Church hear the Spirit". These 13 messages are taken from the first four chapters of the book of Revelation. In chapter one of this final book in the New Testament we are introduced to the Revelation of Jesus Christ -- the one who is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. From chapters two and three, we will listen intently to what the Spirit is saying to the seven churches in Asia. If we pay close attention, we can also learn what the Spirit is saying to First Southern Baptist Church in San Lorenzo. In chapter four we arrive at the throne in Heaven and join in the chorus of "Holy, Holy, Holy". I really look forward to sharing these messages with you straight from God's word. ~ "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." [Revelation 2:11]

During the Sunday evening services, we move from the last book of the New Testament to the first book -- the Gospel of Matthew. We will be viewing a video, moving at a pace of about 2 chapters per week. If you enjoyed the videos of John's Gospel and the Story of Joseph, then you will also enjoy the "Gospel according to Matthew". After each video viewing you will also have the opportunity to discuss what you have seen and heard.

I count it a privilege of the highest order to present you with a Gospel message week after week. Along with Apostle Paul, I confess to you that "we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

**Let's all be in prayer each day for Pastor Chris while he is on a Mission Trip to Africa.**

Date	Day	Activity	Prayer
December 24, 2007	Monday	Leave SFO	Traveling mercy
December 25, 2007	Tuesday	Stop-over in London	Traveling mercy
December 26, 2007	Wednesday	Arrive EBB	cross-cultural understanding
December 27, 2007	Thursday	Visit in Kampala	those who are orphans
December 28, 2007	Friday	Visit in Jinja / to Mbarra	the marginalized of Africa
December 29, 2007	Saturday	Travel Mbarra to Butare	Spiritual discernment
December 30, 2007	Sunday	Churches in Butare	Boldness to witness
December 31, 2007	Monday	Pastor Seminar & Gardening	Spiritually lost in Africa
January 1, 2008	Tuesday	Holiday Rest	Open door for Gospel
January 2, 2008	Wednesday	Opening of Conference	peace in Congo & Burundi
January 3, 2008	Thursday	Conference all day	peace in Uganda & Kenya
January 4, 2008	Friday	Conference all day	peace in Rwanda & Tanzania
January 5, 2008	Saturday	Close conference / to Burundi	Wise Conversation
January 6, 2008	Sunday	Visit Bujumbura Churches	Make most of opportunities
January 7, 2008	Monday	Rest and Tour	cross-cultural understanding
January 8, 2008	Tuesday	Travel to EBB	those in desperate poverty
January 9, 2008	Wednesday	Stop-over in London	Traveling Mercy
January 10, 2008	Thursday	Arrive SFO	Traveling Mercy

*"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** – 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Special Forces

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



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.

# January Calendar

9th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.  
13th - Church Council - 5:00 p.m.  
14th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.  
16th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.  
20th - Lord's Supper - 10:45 a.m.  
23rd - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.  
24th - Open Door Mission - 6:15 p.m.  
26th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.  
- Women's Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.  
27th - Vote on 2008 Budget after a.m. Service  
28th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.  
30th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.



1st - Ofelia Agbayani  
3rd - Lucille Halbach  
6th - Linda Furuyama  
10th - Debbie Machetta  
18th - Judy Vargas  
19th - Ken Abbott  
27th - Elmonta Hillard  
31st - Caryl Shaw



8th - James & Beverly Balsley  
16th - Mike & Char Fortner  
23rd - Ken & Justine Hillard



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## ~ Let's Welcome Our New Associate Pastor ~



Ken Hillard was elected Associate Pastor at a Business Meeting on December 16th. When you see Ken, congratulate him for answering the call to serve God and the people of this church in a different and deeper role.

Ken will be preaching in the morning service on December 30th, January 6th and January 13th.

On December 30th in the evening service Ken will be giving his personal testimony.

## ~ Off To Africa ~

Pastor Chris Foreman will be on mission to Africa from December 24 to January 10. This will be his ninth journey to the same university community in Rwanda. Chris will be staying at the Christian Fellowship House near campus. He will be teaching Joseph in Africa "How God Builds Character" to the university students.

"And pray for me too, that God may open a door for his message, so that I may proclaim the mystery of Christ... Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. [Colossians 4: 3 & 4]

Inside you will find Pastor Chris's itinerary while he is on a Mission Trip to Africa. Let's all be in prayer each day for him.



# January

Return Service Requested