

The staff and I would like to thank the church for all the generosity shown to us by your various gifts of love. We have been blessed!

Last month's newsletter featured the doxology, which for Christians is a hymn of praise to God. The art of praising and worshipping the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords is not just our duty, it is our joy.

In Psalm 100:1-5 (KJV) we are called upon to... *"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. ² Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. ³ Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. ⁵ For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."*

In this particular doxology, we find various directives and instruction on how to worship God in the spirit that pleases Him and brings honor to His name.

The first directive: Christians are called by God to make a joyful noise and direct our praise to Him. This teaches us that **He** is the **object** of our worship. Some of you may wonder, what is a joyful noise? The answer is found in Psalm 98:4-6 (NLT) **Shout to the LORD, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy! Make a joyful symphony before the LORD, the King!**

The next directive: our service to our King should be worshipful, delightful and joyful. He is our God and we are His people! It only makes sense that we celebrate our Creator in this way, for we are nothing without Him!

The next directive speaks directly to the way we approach our Creator. It begins with the condition of our hearts. We are to approach our King with a thankful heart and as we move closer to Him, we are to praise Him for the goodness and mercy He has bestowed upon us. This is how we bless His name.

The crescendo to this particular doxology reiterates the purpose and the object of our worship. *"For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."*

We have so many reasons to be thankful. I encourage all the members of the body of Christ to consider the kind of masterpiece you are to the One who created you. Remember, we are our Maker's magnum opus and we should make Him very proud everywhere we go with everything we say and with everything we do.

May God bless our New Year, may we seek to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to the One who gave His life for us and may He be satisfied with our offerings of praise.

With love from above,

Pastor Tim



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



Wednesday Evening
Choir Practice - 6:30 pm

Christmas Caroling

by Jane Thornell

Well, we were few in number this year, but we made our voices count! We went to the homes of several church members, and as always we were well received. One of our regular carolers had recently broken her leg and couldn't join us, so we made a surprise visit to her house! Her two dogs were not sure why we were there, so we had to sing over their barking!

We also made a stop at the temporary home of the San Lorenzo library. We got many smiles and felt like we brought some Christmas spirit to the patrons. One of the staff members took several pictures while we sang, so we may have ended up on Facebook or Twitter!!

The most rewarding stop was at the Landmark Villa where Deane Church lives. Many of the residents were gathered in the sitting area around the Christmas tree waiting for us to arrive. We handed out song sheets and they joined in. They seemed to be uplifted by being able to sing the carols with us. It was a blessing to them and to us. They handed out cookies as we left.

We had good weather this year, and it was a good evening. This has become a Christmas tradition at First Southern - one that I look forward to each year.

Cookie Exchange

The Women on Missions had their annual Cookie Exchange on Saturday, December 13th. We invited the women from Alameda to join us and had lots of cookies and good food to share. We filled containers with cookies for the shut-ins and had ladies volunteer to deliver them. We also were able to take cookies home to enjoy. A good time was had by all..

Winter Wonderland

What a wonderful time we had at our Winter Wonderland Banquet on Saturday, December 6th. There were 45 people that attended and took part in a catered dinner from Famous Dave's BBQ. We had chicken, brisket, mashed potatoes, cole slaw and corn bread. Mallory Hines did a great job in singing Silent Night. Following Mallory, Ken Hillard gave a short message, then we had cake and our gift exchange. Everyone enjoyed themselves and had a good time. Thank you to Donna Hines and her committee for the wonderful decorations and work that they did to put this together.

Christmas Cantata

by Cindyann Lucas

The Christmas Cantata called Mary Did You know...Was a joyful event that made my heart glow. Shauna in front giving leadership and direction...While the choir members sang from this wonderful collection. There were songs of Christmas and to worship the King...That's the best reason to get up and sing! Bill was the narrator and a perfect choice...I've heard many compliments about his strong voice. The evening ended with scripture read by candlelight...If you were there it was an awesome sight. Then off to the kitchen for some food, fellowship and fun... My thanks to everyone who got this all done!

Women On Mission

Please come and join us at our next Women on Mission meeting which will be on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 10:00 am. We will be having a potluck so bring your favorite dish to share and come see what else we have planned for you.

Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform"

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

Joshua Woolworth - Nephew of Chery Hanna
Branch - Navy **Rank** - Basic Training
Assignment - Great Lakes, Illinois

Megan Hines - Daughter of Pastor Tim and Donna Hines - **Branch** - Marines
Rank - LC- **Assignment** - South Carolina

Brandon Woolworth - Nephew of Chery Hanna
Branch - Air force **Rank** -
Assignment - Tucson, Arizona



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Glorifying God ~ Loving One Another ~ Reaching the World

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Associate Pastor: Ken Hillard

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January 2015

Our Doors are Open

Come join us each week as we open our doors for worship, teaching, fellowship and discipleship training.

Each Sunday our doors are open at 8:30 am for a time of fellowship around the coffee pot. Starting at 9:30 am we have a time of Bible study and then at 10:45 am we begin our weekly Sunday morning service.

Our Sunday morning services burst with energy as our worship leader leads the congregation to praise and worship our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Our pastor is committed to preaching dynamic sermons proclaiming the truth of God's word to our hearts.

In the same fashion, our pastor has dedicated our Sunday evening fellowship time to focus on the Old Testament book of Daniel. The book of Daniel is an enchanting study; it is chock full of mystery, suspense, action and faith. Please make plans to attend these evening sessions, as they will enlighten and encourage you in your daily walk with the Lord.

The Wednesday evening fellowship has discontinued and we will resume regularly scheduled meals and Bible study on February 4, 2015. Between this time, we will offer specialized training. These classes will be listed and everyone will be given the opportunity to sign up. More details on these classes will be coming in the Sunday bulletin in the very near future.

Please make plans to attend all of the weekly events sponsored by your church. Remember, our doors are open!



January Calendar

- 7th - Wednesday Night Dinner - 5:00 pm
- 10th - Women on Mission - 10:00 am
- 12th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am
- 22nd - Open Door Mission - 6:15 pm
- 24th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 am
- 25th - Lord's Supper - 10:45 am
- Sunday School Teachers Meeting - 5:00 pm
- 26th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am



Happy Birthday

- 1st - Ofelia Agbayani
- 3rd - Lucille Halbach
- 5th - Quentin Torres
- 6th - Linda Furuyama
- 6th - Charles Varady
- 10th - Debbie Machetta
- 11th - E'lester Payne
- 16th - Barbara Trimble
- 19th - Ken Abbott
- 31st - Caryl Shaw

Happy Anniversary

- 16th - Mike & Char Fortner