

FBC NEWSLETTER

Making God's kingdom relevant to our community

July-August 2010



Always Been Loved

From Pastor Joe

It's summer and most of us are wondering where the first half of the year went, and I'm sure many are reflecting on their life experiences. To some it may seem that you are in an emotional desert, too far to cross. Others have entered relationships with the intention of making each one turn out right, but failure and disappointment have followed. Perhaps, like Peter, a man of courage, and bold in his love for Christ, you have struggled in your spiritual battles.

Let me sound the trumpet of Encouragement; **YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LOVED!** As you reflect back on your life, you can recall those many instances when God held you close, even when you felt so far away.

Peter discovered that our performance cannot sway God's love. He has decided to set His affection on us. (Deut. 10:15) He has made a conscious choice to love us. Romans 5:8 says: ***"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."***

Nothing can change the love of God, yet He does grieve whenever we yield to sin. Even in times of failure, God thinks of us. He is faithful to caution us when we begin to stray. This is seen as Jesus warned Peter that he would be tempted by Satan. (Luke 22:31).

Realize that temptation is not sin. It only becomes sin when we act upon the temptation. This is why it is so important to be protective of our spiritual walk with the Lord. If we are focused on Him and His will for our life, temptation will not rule our life.

Jesus knew that Peter would yield to temptation. He did not want the burden of failure to overcome His disciple. So He left Peter with a word of hope. ***"I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."*** (Luke 22:32)

Regardless of what you have done, God has a plan for your life from this point on. He still wants you to come home. While God's love cannot change the consequences of our disobedience, it can

infuse us with immense hope and help us get back on track and stay there.

God will never force us to love Him. He desires us to experience His love in an intimate way, but it is our choice. His love is a gift that He offers to all who accept His Son as Savior and Lord.

God wants us to come to Him right now. There is nothing we can do to become pure enough to approach the throne of the Lord. It is only through the forgiveness of Jesus Christ that we can stand unashamedly before the Father. It is the work Jesus did for us on the Cross that makes us clean and purifies us from all sin.

In order for our life to be right with God, we must recognize our need for Him and be willing to do anything to have this need met. Peter was sure that in his own strength he could resist anyone that might attempt to arrest Jesus. However, he failed to calculate the emotional weakness of his nature. The good news is this: You don't have to run anymore. Jesus has made a way for us to enjoy the goodness of the Father today and forever. His peace is ours the moment we accept His Love.

EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF GOD

- Accept the fact that God loves you.
- Believe what God says in His Word.
- Realize it is His love that changes you.
- Look for His love throughout your life.
- Ask Him to reaffirm His love toward you.
- Surrender to His love.

(Some portions of this article were taken from "In Touch Magazine, August, 1998, by Dr. Charles F. Stanley)

July 2010

Church Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Senior Cmte Mtg 10am Pastors 11:30 WMU 2:00pm	2 Heart Links 7pm	3 Patriotic concert & July 4th BBQ –Chili Cook-off
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Ojai Fireworks	5 Celebrate Recovery 7:00 p.m.	6 Prayer Group 6:30pm	7	8	9 Needle Art 10am	10 VBS Set Up
11 Exec Com-noon	12 Vacation Bible Celebrate Rec	13 School Prayer Group 6:30pm	14	15	16 VBS Family Night 6:30pm	17 VBS Clean Up Heart Links
18 School Board-noon Shepard Place Service 2pm	19 Celebrate Rec 7:00	20 Prayer Group 6:30pm	21	22 Senior Lunch	23 Needle Art 10am	24 Mission Trip to "Hope Again"
25 Joe Corbett Preach Pastor Joe and	26 Celebrate Rec Jeanie Vacation	27 Prayer Group	28	29	30	31

August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Jeff Delk Preach	2 Celebrate Rec 7:00	3 Prayer Group 6:30pm	4	5 Pastors Prayer 11:30	6 Heart Links 7pm	7
8 Exec Com-noon	9 Celebrate Rec 7:00	10 Prayer Group 6:30pm	11	12	13 Needle Art 10am	14
15 Shepard Place Service 2pm	16 Celebrate Rec 7:00	17 Prayer Group 6:30pm	18	19	20	21 Heart Links 10am
22 School Board-noon	23 Celebrate Rec 7:00	24 Prayer Group 6:30pm	25	26	27 Needle Art 10am	28
29	30 Celebrate Rec 7:00	31 Prayer Group 6:30 pm				



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Our churches and communities are filled with people who are struggling with pain, shame and addictions.

Fourteen years ago, Pastor John Baker of Saddleback Church launched Celebrate Recovery with 43 people. It was designed as a program to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through a recovery process. Celebrate Recovery has helped more than 7,500 people at Saddleback, is active in over 12,000 churches around the country and over 700,000 people have gone through the class.

The dates for the 2010 Summit are August 11-13. Every August, Celebrate Recovery takes over the Saddleback campus for three days of leadership training, fellowship and fun.

This year, a number of people from FBC have the opportunity to participate in the Summit training. The prerequisites for attending the Summit are: One has to be clean and sober for at least a year, involved in a local Celebrate Recovery class for at least a year, and must be sponsored by a local Celebrate Recovery leader. The following people from FBC are attending: Pastor Joe and Jeanie Epley, Sara Breschini, Skip and Letty Clark, Martin Topham and Nick Cirillo.

Upon completion of the Summit training, each of these people will be fully trained to lead a Celebrate Recovery class.

Congratulations! What a victory! Praise God for His grace.

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>School Starts</i>	2 Senior Cmte Mtg 10am Pastors 11:30 WMU Mtg 2:00	3 <i>Heart Links</i> 7pm	4 <i>Church Work Day</i>
5 <i>CMO Missions Offering</i>	6 <i>LABOR DAY School Holiday No Celebrate Recovery</i>	7 <i>CCS School Starts</i>	8	9	10 <i>Needle Art</i> 10am	11
12 <i>GRAND-PARENTS DAY Exec Com-noon</i>	13	14 <i>START Shepard Place Study 9:30 am</i>	15 <i>Start Team-Kidz 6:30 pm</i>	16 <i>Senior Lunch</i>	17	18 <i>Heart Links</i> 10am
19 Shepard Place Service 2pm	20	21 <i>Shepard Place Study 9:30 am Prayer Group</i>	22 <i>TeamKidz 6:30 pm CCS Minimum</i>	23 <i>Fall</i>	24 <i>Needle Art</i> 10am	25 <i>TALENT SHOW</i>
26 School Board-noon	27	28 Shepard Place Study 9:30 am Prayer Group	29 <i>TeamKidz 6:30 pm</i>	30		

Our New Sign Is Here!!



Seniors

The Senior Committee plans the activities and schedules the Special

Speakers for the Senior Luncheons which are every third Thursday.

The food is always great, the special speakers are interesting and informative and the fellowship is a lot of fun. The Committee has made some changes:

Frank & Erni Heath have replaced Pastor Joe & Rachel Corbett and Cheryl Hernandez just joined the group. Welcome aboard newcomers!

The current Committee members are:

**Frank & Erni Heath
Mary Campanele
Helen Acosta
Cheryl Hernandez**

Thank you Pastor Joe and Rachel for your hard work in this ministry!



July 4th Celebration on July 3rd!!

This is a day to get out in the sun and have a Barbeque with your family and friends.

Well, we've got it all planned for you. At 11:30 am, we will have a pie and cake contest and a chili cook-off.

At 12:00 pm, we will have a Patriotic Concert, where you can choose to sing your favorite Patriotic or Gospel songs, listen to others provide fine music, or just be part of the audience, singing.

At 1:00 pm, we will have a Barbeque meal. There will be time in the afternoon for fellowship, indoor games, outdoor games, or just sit around and talk.

See you there!



Church Work Day!



Sat., August 7, 2010

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Work!

There is plenty to do....Big jobs as well as small.

There is something for everyone!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Register Your Children Now!



This will be an exciting VBS!

JULY 12 - 16, 8:30 A.M.—NOON

AGE 3 - GRADE 5

Everything is planned, and we are ready to go! Can you help? You can still call and volunteer.

Call the Church Office: 684-3353

MUSIC, GAMES, CRAFTS, STORIES, BIBLE STUDY, SNACKS, FUN!



Birthdays!!



July

- Patty Gioia 7/28
- Linda Gramatovich 7/22
- Erni Heath 7/22
- Alma Heck 7/18
- Shirley Hogan 7/7
- Doris Jerep 7/30
- Meredith McCurdy 7/30

August

- Nathan Clark 8/19
- Anna Wolfe 8/6
- Joe Epley 8/9
- Perky Hathaway 8/7
- Vee Kingsbury 8/17
- Sharon Kohnke 8/26
- Patty McCollum 8/12

September

- Tim Gramatovich 9/14
- Tom Robertson 8/21
- Mary Campanele 9/22
- Jackie Clouser 9/06



There is a Talent Show on September 25th!!!

Come and have fun!!

Share your special talents with everyone!!



**July 24th
To
Hope Again!!**

Hope Again was founded in 1992 by Carole Clarke and has grown over the years by assisting those who are trapped in poverty, crime and substance abuse experience God's love in action, to find economic, social and spiritual wholeness. **Hope Again** serves the poor, homeless and disenfranchised in Hollywood. What began on a shoestring in one tiny room off the alley of a church, has grown to encompass a home for women, a home for men and a safe haven for women with children.

Join us to help this important ministry to the needy. We will take food and supplies, help with a BBQ and work on their facilities.

Contact Pastor Joe or call 684-3353

<p>Foods Needed: Tuna, Spam, ravioli, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, fruit, vegetables, beans, chili, beef stew, soups, milk, pork & beans, Vienna sausages, refried beans, chicken, juice, macaroni & cheese, pasta, instant coffee,</p>	<p>powdered coffee creamer, hot chocolate, tea, rice, dried beans, small powdered milk, hot/cold cereals, oatmeal, ramen noodles, cup-o-soup, small jars of mayonnaise, jello, pudding, peanut butter, jelly, crackers. Other Necessities: Zip-</p>	<p>lock bags (gal. size), personal hygiene items for men & women (small size shampoo, conditioner, soap, hand & body lotion, etc.), boxes of diapers (all sizes), toothbrushes, toothpaste, towels, washcloths, grocery gift cards, gas gift cards, gently used clothing.</p>
---	--	--



Young Life Is Coming To Carpinteria!!

About Young Life:

A non-denominational Christian ministry that reaches out to adolescents through volunteers, staff, club meetings, and camps by building meaningful relationships. Leaders are committed to being involved with kids' lives -- from supporting them at their sporting events to listening to them talk about what's important to them. Our leaders help kids consider the direction of their lives, and offer hope for their future.

Parents and Community:

Parents and other adults in the community are important to Young Life. Adults can support Young Life in a variety of ways — by becoming a volunteer leader or committee member, by attending a Young Life fund-raising event, by hosting Young Life or by simply telling others in the community about Young Life.

Bringing Young Life to Carpinteria:

Pastor Joe and other local pastors are in the planning stages of bringing Young Life to Carpinteria. If you would like to help with this vital ministry, please contact Pastor Joe at 684-3353.



A Family In Christ

5026 Foothill Road
Carpinteria, CA 93013

Phone: 805-684-3353

Fax: 805-684-2437

Email: firstbaptist.carpinteria@verizon.net

Website: www.fbccarpinteria.com

Pastor: Rev. Joe W. Epley



Get A Grip

If you don't have a handle on your spending, don't make the mistake of saying to yourself, "When I get caught up financially, or when I make a certain income, then I'll fully commit to handling my finances God's way."

The truth is, if you don't commit to biblical priorities with what you already have, it's unlikely you'll commit when you have more money.

your heart attitude toward God, and not the amount of money, is the key issue. And until you recognize God as owner of all, you may never reach the point at which you feel you have "enough". In other words, you'll never have contentment.

If you're not living on a budget, your finances will likely dictate decisions for you, rather than you managing your finances under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

The absence of an organized plan inevitably leads to a lack of money for surprise expenses, and it's a downhill slide from there into credit card debt.



(Copied from Money Matters Magazine, June 2002, Page 2)