

For His Glory

"So whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE – The First Baptist Church of Redway shall exist to glorify and love God by reaching out to all people, sharing the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, baptizing believers, and teaching them to obey God's commandments as they are found in the Bible.

Monthly Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Redway, California

December 2009AD

Women's Ministries

by Marie Keller

Please remember it's time for the Lottie Moon Foreign Missionary offering. Our goal will stay the same as last year \$750.00.

We had our first planning meeting Nov 19th for the spring NCBA Women's Conference to be hosted by Fortuna. The tentative date is April 24th. Our ladies will help in whatever way Fortuna needs assistance. If you are interested in becoming involved please contact Marie Keller 223-0224.

Lose It For Life Project

by Gretta Kirk

The Lose it for Life Project offers support to anyone struggling with weight loss. The group is based on material titled "Lose it for Life" by Stephen Aterburn and Dr. Linda Mintle. This uniquely balanced program deals with the physical, emotional, and spiritual elements that may hinder us from achieving our weight loss goals. "Lose it for Life" was designed to stand alone or be used with any other food program. By combining the written material with real life strategies and support the, "Lose it for Life Project" offers the motivation needed to achieve lasting results.

Meetings are held every Sunday from 2-3:15 pm at the First Baptist Church of Redway. For more information please call Gretta Kirk 707-223-4615

Wheeler-Berry Wedding Invitation

We request your presence to join in the celebration of the marriage of John Wheeler to Rosemary Berry on Sunday 2:00PM December 6th at FBCR. Please bring a pot-luck dish to share at the reception to follow. Dessert will be provided.

Christmas Food Baskets

Please note we are collecting for our annual Christmas Food Basket ministry now through Tuesday December 22nd. This is a great way for you to participate in helping families that find themselves stressed financially at Christmas. Our goal is to not only provide a Christmas dinner for families who need it within our local community, but to bless them with groceries to sustain them for a while during the holiday.

We will provide a turkey and all of the fixings plus a few non perishable staples. We are asking the church to help provide non-perishable items like can goods such as corn, sweet potatoes, green beans, and any other non-perishable items as you are able. A small group of designated people will be assembling all of the food on December 20-21 for distribution on the 22nd. We will be collecting the food now and until the baskets are distributed. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry.

The Pastor's Corner

by David Sanchez

"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." John 1:10-13

The gospel of John gives us a different picture of the Christmas story than Matthew and Luke. There is no manger scene, angelic visits, or wise men bringing their precious gifts. In fact we have none of the familiar details of Christmas story told every year at this time.

During the Christmas season, it is not hard to get caught up in the scene of a little baby Jesus born with all the miraculous events that surrounded him and there is certainly nothing wrong with that. Those details are important aspects of the Christmas story. They are the zoomed in, micro, detailed aspects of the Christmas story.

John on the other hand zooms out so that we can see the big picture of God's purpose for the birth of Christ. From Matthew and Luke's accounts we might say: "Jesus is the reason for the season." From John's account we might say it this way: "The season has a reason because of Jesus." One focuses on the person of Christ while the other focuses on the purpose of God through Christ.

Far from the setting of Bethlehem, the setting of John's Christmas story is first of all "the world:" *"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him."* It is not just that *"there was no room in the inn"* in that small town of Bethlehem, but that there was no room in the hearts of the world that he was instrumental in creating.

Zoom in a little and we find that Christ was born into a specific people group that God had chosen as the instruments through which He would communicate His truth to the nations of the world; these people are the Jews: *"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him."*

This is a heartbreaking truth! Christ was instrumental in creating the world and in selecting the nation of Israel as a chosen vessel and yet, as he comes to the world he created and this special people he chose, he is not recognized or embraced by either of them! It is not just the citizens of Bethlehem, the Jews, or the religious leaders of his day that rejected him: it was the predominate majority of the world. That is the bad news!

Praise the Lord! Jesus was not born to bring bad news but to overcome the bad news with the good news of the gospel: *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."*

While there is much that could be said about these few words, the good news is that there are people in every nation, every people group and in every generation that God is bringing into His spiritual family through a new birth and faith in Christ. This is why *"the season has a reason:"*

Jesus came into this world and to the nation of Israel to build an eternal family that everyone who believes in him will enjoy forever. This beautiful work of God is not something that only happened in the past, limited to a few generations: it is an ever expanding family that God is still building in the lives of people that right now may not believe but through the work of Christ will come to believe.

May our view of what Christ is doing be influenced not only by a baby born in a manger but by a God who sent his son into the world with a purpose of building a family that will outlast every piece of bad news that could ever exist.

Whatever bad news exists in your world right now, may it be overcome by the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ who came for you. You have every reason to celebrate today!

Celebrate then, and rejoice,

Pastor David



Christmas Party 2008 - Couls & Peggy

Janet

Dale & Karen



2008 Jeanette, Pastor David, Mary, Fiesta, & Peggy

Paul & Tina



2008 Kriss,

Mary & Gary

Dave & Sandy

Calendar of Events

The church calendar is online! Please communicate with staff before planning an event on what appears to be an open date. To add a date to the calendar, please contact Pastors David and Doug, or Peggy Hoaglin. The calendar is publicly available on the web at the following link. <http://cid-bd101f8f03a1d439.calendar.live.com/calendar/Church/index.html>

- Wheeler-Berry wedding **December 6**
- Live Nativity **December 18**
- Christmas Basket Food donation deadline and distribution **December 22**
- Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions **November 29 – Christmas**
- Men's Ministry Retreat **January 15-18**

Live Nativity

Southern Humboldt Ministerial Association Live Nativity Scene will take place during the Trucker's Parade in Redway on Friday December 18th. This is a one night-2 hour event! There are many opportunities to help in set-up, refreshments, still actors, and take down. Please pray about your participation. The First Baptist Church Redway parking lot will be the location. Several local churches are partnering together to bring this to our community. If you would like to participate please contact Tina Bolinger 923-4358

Southern Baptists: a praying people impacting a lost world