

EQUIP ~ ENGAGE ~ EDIFY

CHRISTIAN CENTER

for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, Ephesians 4:12

PASTOR STEVE MELLOR



Jeremiah 31:31- Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—

We have been looking at God's first covenant with Israel as we have been studying the books of Exodus and Leviticus. It communicates to us God's standards and laws. Yet we realize that it was a covenant that would be superseded by another covenant, a new covenant, that God would make initially with Israel and then make available to all. In this covenant God would place His laws in people's minds and write them on their hearts. A person would know internally what God's will was and he would desire in his heart to see that will accomplished.

This is the covenant Jesus instituted at Calvary when He gave His life for the sin of the world. Jesus said, "This cup is the New Covenant in my blood which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Luke 22:20, Matthew 26:28)

Under the first (old) covenant man sees God's perfect standards and recognizes his inability to keep those standards. It shows man his sin and his need for forgiveness. That forgiveness is available through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus bore the sin of the world when He died upon the cross. When a person puts their faith in Jesus his sin is forgiven and God places His Holy Spirit within him to make him a new person. Hence, the will and desire of what God wants is now within the new believer.

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ let us remember that this was the beginning of new life and hope for a lost world. Because He lives, we shall live too, because of His grace, through faith.

Pastor Steve

SALT & LIGHT MINISTRY

BY JIM AND KATHY TAPSCOTT

Our Mission: To train and equip our church family about the principles of Biblical Citizenship that will defend and promote life, natural marriage, our constitution and religious liberties!

Biblical citizenship based on Matthew 5:13-14: "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

We promote biblical moral values in the public sector. We strive to seek love and care for all of God's people, transforming minds through prayer, education and action. We encourage all to come to our forums, learn and contribute and become Salt & Light in our community!

Why do we do it? Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."

Our regular scheduled meetings are every 1st and 3rd Sunday @ 8:00 AM in the fellowship hall.

However, in APRIL, we will begin a SERIES - "Understanding the Threat" of the global Islamic movement - and will meet April 8, 15, 22, 29 at 8:00 AM in the fellowship hall.

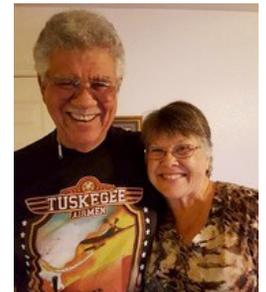
UNDERSTANDING is the focus (read Hosea 4:6).

Future topic: "28 Principles of Liberty"

Come and become a part of the solution.

In Truth. In Love. In Jesus name.

Jim & Nat Tapscott



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



BY MARIAN MELLOR

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We have just completed a 12-week curriculum that has taken the children briefly through the 66 Books of the Bible. During these 12 weeks the children learned hand motions to help them memorize the names of each of the books in the Bible. While they didn't get to learn details about each of the books, several stories were highlighted along our learning path.

We now resume our "regular" teaching through a children's story Bible in the younger class and CC Modesto curriculum in the older class, which does a more in-depth study similar to Steve's teaching style on Sunday mornings, yet closer to the children's level of learning (hopefully!).

We are REALLY looking forward to studying Daniel in our upcoming Vacation Bible School, which will take place toward the end of June/beginning of July. Steve has outlined the lessons for each day and I am really excited for the children who come to VBS to learn about our God who loved and protected Daniel, and about Daniel's humble, self-controlled character that God was able to use so mightily in the foreign land of Babylon.

I would like to remind you that we have a Mom Heart group that meets in our home the first Thursday of each month from 9-11 AM. We are currently about 2/3 of the way through a book by Elisabeth Elliot's great-grandfather, Clay Trumbull, called Hints on Child Training. I read it when our children were much younger and it has been an excellent experience to read through it again. Although the style and vocabulary can be a healthy challenge to follow because it was written in 1890, it contains many practical ideas for nurturing our children's hearts and helping to form their character. We have moms of all ages joining us, working toward fulfilling Titus 2 relationships for older and younger women alike. Please feel free to join us!

Blessings!

Marian



1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Marge Chandler, a long-time member and friend of the Christian Center, went to be with the Lord on December 26th, 2017. We were blessed to have Marge and her husband Dick in the fellowship for many years. Dick and Marge were responsible for our church directory and church newsletter for several years. Marge also created the doves that are on the back of each Prayer Quilt, having a heart to be used by Jesus in any way that she could. She was a faithful and cherished friend. We all miss her cheerful presence at the Christian Center but we are praising Jesus that she now stands in the presence of our Savior!

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Can you touch a prayer? Can you pull it close and feel its comfort? You can if it's part of a prayer quilt.

The idea behind these quilts is simple, yet powerful. A heavy thread is used to take stitches through the quilt layers, and the ends are left free to be tied with a square knot. As each knot is tied, a silent prayer is offered for someone in special need; someone who has asked us to pray for them. The quilt is then given to that person. What makes each quilt so special is not the pattern, color or workmanship, but the fact that prayer is symbolically tied into each one. These comforters are a statement of faith, and a testimony to our belief in God and in the power of prayer.

The Prayer Quilt ministry is always looking for more helping hands. You don't need to know how to quilt to help either. If you are interested in helping please contact Pat Oakes. God Bless!



MEN'S MINISTRY

BY PAUL PALASZEWSKI

Ephesians 2:19-20 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone

As several of the ladies attested, 24 church brothers returned from our annual Men's Retreat filled with a brighter light in their eyes and a greater love in their hearts. Four speakers brought home inspirational messages on "Running the Race" and finishing well. A common theme that seemed to run through the weekend was the realization that we are not in the race alone and that we need to spur each other on toward the finish line. To that end many new relationships were forged, with some of the men establishing new accountability partnerships from within the brethren. During our free time we played golf, went hiking, and soaked in the restorative waters of the hot springs.



Our weekly 7 AM Saturday morning men's breakfast fellowship continues to meet in the church fellowship hall, regularly bringing together two dozen plus men. The success of our ministry lies in the firm foundation we lay by delving into the words of the apostles and prophets and giving priority to our vertical relationship with Jesus Christ. In divine timing, our always lively Gospel of John Bible Study is moving into the account of Christ's Passion, precisely as we enter the Easter season! So, if you want to draw closer to God and closer to your fellow brothers we encourage you to come out and join us as we assemble together as one family in the household of God.

Paul Palaszewski



YOUTH MINISTRY

By Ryan Lynn

Romans 12:11-not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

We just returned from Jr. High Camp a couple weeks ago. God moved powerfully in and through the 4 girls that went to Winter Camp. I have been going to the same camp since I was their age! It had a profound effect on my walk with the Lord and direction for ministry. I could see on the girls faces that the camp had a similar effect! God is so very faithful to His children.



In January, we went to High School Camp at Forest Home to run our own camp. I am so blessed to have Youth Leaders that are passionate about the Lord and Youth Ministry. They are a great example of the message we are trying to communicate to the students. We learned about the importance about being "fervent in spirit." Passion flows out of our intimate connection with the God of the universe. You can't help but be passionate when spending time with the Savior. The camp was a great opportunity for the students to connect with Jesus again and be set on fire for Him!

We have Truth Quest this upcoming week and we expect for God to do big things! Thank you so much for your support and prayers for the Youth Ministry.

Pastor Ryan

WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

By *Debie Dillahunt*

What a joy it is to study God's Word together! We have just completed our study on the seven I AM statements of Jesus (Finding I AM by Lysa Terkhuerst). It was such a rich study filled with wonderful truths from the Scriptures. As we focused on Jesus, we were reminded that He is the only One who can bring true and lasting fulfillment in our lives. "Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'" John 6:35

On April 9th, we'll begin a short study, Psalms From the Heart by Ray C. Stedman. Feel free to join us for this great faith-building and heart-encouraging study!

Great news: our church will be hosting a special simulcast event featuring Priscilla Shirer, popular Bible study teacher and author! The simulcast will be broadcast in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 28th from 9:30 to 4:30. The cost is \$20., and will include a luncheon. Priscilla will be sharing on the power of prayer and the study of God's Word. (*See details on the foyer sign-up sheet.)

As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, may we be ever thankful for His love and sacrifice for us. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life!

Love and Blessings,

Debie Dillahunt



WOMEN'S HOME FELLOWSHIP

BY *DENISE SCHMADERER*

What an awesome time we had at the women's retreat! We spent time diving into God's word, worshipping, laughing, crying, playing, sharing, refreshing! And as we learned, we are running the race with a specific goal/ prize at the end...Jesus!! I so pray that those of you that were unable to make it to the retreat would be able to come next year (if the Lord should tarry) it is so fun and fulfilling! God is good!!

We are in our final chapter of Ephesians...already!! It has been such a rich study. The Lord is so faithful in meeting us right where we are. Every week He has spoken to my heart through this study. This last chapter is good for daily living - following God's design for marriage, family, the work place and then goes on to preparing for spiritual warfare and the best part, putting on the full armor of God. I am so looking forward to these last 6 lessons.

It's not too late to join us. Monday nights at 6pm, my house, come and be refreshed in Him.

Blessings,

Denise Schmadorer



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 25-29

TRUTH QUEST

APRIL 1, 6:30 & 10 AM

RESURRECTION SERVICES

APRIL 8, 15, 22, 29 8 AM

'UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT' SALT & LIGHT

APRIL 15, 10:30 AM

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MEETING

APRIL 28, 9:30 AM

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY SIMULCAST

MAY 3, 12:00 PM

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

MAY 20

DECISION AMERICA with Franklin Graham

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