



Your place for Family, Friends, FAITH

Oak Leaves Newsletter for January 2012

A Time for Optimism

There are basically two kinds of people in the world. There are the optimists, those who see the glass as half full, and there are the pessimists, those who see the glass as half empty.

Pessimists tend to believe that bad events will last a long time and will undermine everything they do. Pessimists give up more easily and tend towards depression more than optimists. They struggle with self-worth.

Optimists, on the other hand, tend to view defeats in life as temporary setbacks. Defeat is not their fault. They perceive setbacks as challenges and try harder. Their health tends to be good; they age well and may even live longer than pessimists. They are rugged realists.

It is true that certain personality types are more prone to pessimism or optimism, but one of the most significant finds in psychology over the last twenty years is that individuals can choose the way they think. Optimism can be developed.

The Bible has been teaching people for over a thousand years that we can enhance the quality of our lives by changing the way we think. For optimism is nothing more or less than faith-inspired living.

As we begin 2012, may FPCMVM become a community that is inspired and lives by faith. We have a glorious future and God has great plans for our corner.

Let us together embrace the future and reach out to our neighbors with an optimistic view of Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

Let the New Year begin . . .

Pastor Tim

P.S. See You in Worship!

"Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life." Psalm 54:4

Our Vision: We are a Christ-centered community celebrating God's Love through caring, sharing and growing.

Our Mission: Our mission is to love and obey God, to follow Jesus, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, to share with our community God's love, forgiveness, and unmerited favor. We seek to become a transforming and reconciling force for God through our worship, study, fellowship and service. We strive for everyone to have a relationship with the living Jesus.



Monthly calendar:

- Sermon topics for January:
Theme: *New Life, New Optimism*
January 8: The Source of Optimism
January 15: Who is the Optimistic Person?
January 22: Touch Optimism / Tough Times
Theme: *Seeing the Unseen Christ*
January 29: Lavish His Love on Others
- Saturday, January 14, 8:30 – 12:00 Noon, Monthly Work Day
- Saturday, January 21: Bluegrass Concert, Information: www.rba.org or 650-691-9982
- Sunday, January 29: Congregational Meeting following worship
- Wednesdays on the Corner (resumes January 11): 6:15 p.m. Supper; 7:00 p.m. Study
- Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.: Bible Study in the Library/Conference Room (resumes January 12). All are welcome.

Monthly Mission Highlight: The Salvation Army meets human needs in God's name.

Cart of Good Giving: Non-perishable food items please.

Friends, Family and FAITH

By Pat

“Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob! “ Psalm 81:1

Aren't those great words to begin a New Year with!

Great news from **Joey L**! She tells us, “I got a job on a cruise ship and I wanted to thank everyone for their prayers and keep them posted as to what’s going on. I’ll be gone for 3 weeks. I flew out to Florida on the 17th of December and boarded the Ship on the 18th. I come back home on Jan 8th. The ship takes us cruising around the Caribbean for the holidays. It’s a short adventure but it’s definitely exciting.” (Note: Holly received a text message at 4 AM on December 18th that Joey was on the shuttle on her way to the ship!)

Peggy R had her grandson, Carson, spend a couple of weeks with her and the time with him is always a culinary adventure. She opens her kitchen to him and he is the chef when he is in town visiting. Wouldn’t we all love to have someone cook for us for a week or two? What a treat that would be! I wonder if Peggy will lend him out???

Katherine F feels the time has arrived to consider re-locating as daughter Susan’s job has taken her to Oakland. With her other daughter, Jan and family already in the Oakland area, the kids would be more comfortable to have Mom close by. Katherine is very fortunate to have had help researching assisted living facilities and she has even placed her application with one place. We will wait to hear the results and of course, if she leaves us, the lady will be deeply missed. Keep in mind that – perhaps wisely – no one asked us to be her reference. Who knows what we or other choir members would say!

Both the Christmas Eve Service and the Christmas Day birthday party for Jesus were so well received we hope that Pastor Tim will host them again in 2012. Thank you, Pastor Tim.

For Christmas, the **Hendersons** headed down south to Los Angeles to be with Brian, Elise and the granddaughters. The little ones were sooooo excited that nap

time went out the window for both Friday and Saturday. The amount of presents was over-whelming (it looked like Santa's workshop) and Clare – the 1 year old – found this to be way too much to handle and wandered down the hall to her room, crying.

2011 was a terribly busy year for **Wake and Carolyn L.** It appears they did not to have one free month from traveling or having company during the entire year. The traveling plus the company were in addition to Carolyn's law firm acquiring another firm, moving to new offices and Wake working full time as well!! How do they do it??? We wonder if plans for 2012 will include more relaxation for these two people.

The people, whose mode of transportation on Sundays is **our church van**, had a very interesting experience; something that they can still talk about. The van ran out of gas with the group in it! Can you imagine what that was like? We don't know if someone pulled out a cell phone to be rescued or if the driver hiked to the nearest gas station. ☺

Did you hear **John Doan** and his "A Victorian Christmas" presentation? He displayed and played a great variety of instruments - some of which we had never seen or heard of before. It was a wonderful event for all ages.

For Christmas caroling this year, the carolers had a wonderful time and received lots of cookies and hot chocolate along the way. Thank you to the fine group of singers that ventured out in the cold.

Many thanks and words of appreciation were heard by those of you who took poinsettias to various congregation members and friends in our church. The flowers and especially the visits were so welcome to those who received them. Thank you for being in the spirit of the Season!

GOD BLESS YOU AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Thought for today: You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

THE LAST WORD

Birthdays are good for you – the more you have, the longer you live.