



Shining God's Light

First Edition

February 2014

First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 www.fbcsanmateo.org

LOVE IS THE CENTERPIECE

In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, the Apostle Paul proclaims the excellent superiority of love and at the end of the chapter in verse 13, he writes: *but now faith, hope, love abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

As I reflected on this beautiful section of Scripture I was reminded yet again of the central or preeminent role that love is intended to play in the lives of God's people. There is simply no getting around the fact that love should be a defining characteristic in the life of the believer.

Now the more I thought about this chapter, especially verse 13, it occurred to me that these three words; faith, hope and love represent the basics or fundamental guiding principles of the Christian life.

In our world today, faith is a word that expresses confidence or a belief in someone or something, but it's not necessarily a strongly held conviction, nor are people dependent on that in which they place their faith. But for the Christian, the object of our faith is Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth. The word faith is not only descriptive of our ongoing, dynamic relationship with God, but it also expresses our dependence on Him.

Faith is all about relationship and it is the very foundation on which our lives in Christ are built.

To the world, the word hope speaks of something that is desired that may or may not occur. However, when the word hope appears in the New Testament, it's always centered on God and the basis for our hope is found in the gracious work of God in Jesus Christ. Therefore, our hope is based on something that is solid, and it should bring the expectation of something good. Hope allows us to be confident and certain in an uncertain world. Hope is the assurance that the One we love and in whom we place our faith is alive and we can be certain that we will spend eternity with Him.

Scripture makes it very plain that a distinguishing characteristic of a true follower of Jesus Christ is love for God and love for others, even those who are difficult. I believe that you can't have hope or faith

means a commitment to care, regardless of reciprocity or reception. I would guess that this definition of love is much different than the way many Christians today would define love. Because love, Jesus' style, demands that we care for those who hurt us or treat us badly. Our love is to be modeled after Jesus, who loved those who mocked Him, spit on Him and even killed Him. On the cross Jesus was the epitome of Christian love.

By Pastor Marc Heinz
until you first love as God commands. In 1 John 4:7-22 we read:
Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love, which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

In John's day, love was either a philosophical concept or a positive attraction to someone or something. There were four different words used by the Greeks to describe love. Now when the early Christians wanted to describe what they experienced in Jesus' love they took the weakest of these Greek words - agape - and ascribed a new meaning to it. This word's meaning is fully developed in 1 John. But in essence, it

means a commitment to care, regardless of reciprocity or reception. I would guess that this definition of love is much different than the way many Christians today would define love. Because love, Jesus' style, demands that we care for those who hurt us or treat us badly. Our love is to be modeled after Jesus, who loved those who mocked Him, spit on Him and even killed Him. On the cross Jesus was the epitome of Christian love.

Love is the centerpiece for all Christian existence and experience. And in 1 John we are told to receive God's love and then pass it on, as widely and effectively as possible. In a sense, love is to be cyclical in nature. If we would simply recognize God's great love for us and live in that reality it would change everything!

If you let it, God's love will not only change you but it will transform your relationships. It will shape you and mold you. It will be evident in your speech and all your dealings with other people. But it all begins by developing a personal relationship with God and allowing Him and His Word to shape your life. It's making love for God your priority.

In Revelation 2 the church at Ephesus is described. The Ephesian church was an active church, busy in the service of God and people. It was famous for its hard work, diligence and conscientiousness. It is the kind of church most of us would love to be a part of. Yet in Revelation 2:4 it was charged by Jesus with losing its first love, God. And this was so significant that they were in jeopardy of losing everything they had.

We dare not be naive and think that we can allow anyone or anything other than God to be our priority and not face the same consequences that the church at Ephesus did. Folks, gaining or losing that first love is the key to life and death.

So when you examine the basic fundamentals of your life, what do you see? Are you on track? Is your heart undivided? Is the Lord truly your first love? Are you growing in faith, hope and love? Let's be people who not only understand the basics of the Christian life, let's be people who want to put them into practice each and every day! Amen?

Children's Ministry

By Alba Kellejian



HomeFront is a FREE monthly resource that gives parents ideas on how to create fun, spiritually forming times in their home – even in the midst of their busy lives. This digital magazine can be sent right to your inbox each month (sign up at <http://www.homefrontmag.com>) or download the app on your mobile device. This convenience makes it easy for parents & grandparents to shape a vibrant faith in the lives of their children. We also print a limited number of

HomeFront magazines, so if you are not able to get this resource on your mobile device or in your inbox, pick up at copy outside Alba's office.

This month's issue is full of suggests for fun and purposeful family time and ideas to help make scripture memorization meaningful and lasting.



F.A.T. Dinner

February 5, 5:30 p.m.



MENU

**Spaghetti and Meatballs
Salad and Bread
Dessert and Drinks**

Cost: \$5.00 age 18 and over

\$2.00 age 12-17

Please make your reservation today using the insert in the bulletin, or better still, make a standing reservation if you are planning to eat with us on a fairly regular basis.

Moving Forward

Submitted by Doris Waddell

This morning the following devotion touched my heart and I hope it will help you as well. It's from "In Green Pastures."

"Blessings of Tribulations"

"When you have passed through a season of suffering and stand beyond it -- there ought to be a new light in your eye, a new glow in your face, a new gentleness in your touch, a new sweetness in your voice, a new hope in your heart, and a new consecration in your life. You ought not to stay in the shadows of the sorrow -- but to come again out of them, radiant with the light of victory and peace, into the place of service and duty. The comfort which God gives, puts deep new joy into the heart, and anoints the mourner or the sufferer with a new baptism of love and power."



A Re-established Request

By Doris Waddell

Because announcements and inserts are ways we use to get the word out about your activities, a better job of creating them is done when they are submitted on time.

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**PLEASE BE PROMPT! HAVE YOUR REQUESTS TURNED IN TO ME BY WEDNESDAY NOON.**  
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Contact by email, pass a note (written works better than spoken) at church, or by phone. We want to promote your ministries in the most effective way, but we need your help to do that.

Women's Night: Valentines for Kids



Ladies:

Join us at 7 PM on Tuesday, February 4 as we put together valentines for the children staying at the Villa Terrace Shelter in San Mateo.

We will meet in the church library to put them together.

If you would like to donate toward the project, please speak with Tami Strang.



BASS

Is Coming on March 6, 7, 8, 2014!

Held at Redwood Chapel
19300 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA

March 6 - 4:30-9:00 p.m. / March 7 - 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
March 8 - 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Over 250 Workshops and 75 Exhibits!

General Sessions:

Thursday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Pastor Derwin Gray, Author & Lead Pastor, Transformation Church, Indian Land, SC (Former NFL Player). Special Guest: Rick Alonzo, Artist in Motion

Friday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Pastor Larry Osborne, Author & Senior Pastor, North Coast Church, Vista, CA. Special Musical Guests: Denver Bierman and the Mile High Orchestra.

Saturday, March 8, 9:30 a.m.

Speaker: Dr. Palmer Chinchon, Author & Lead Pastor, The Grove, Chandler, AZ. Special Musical Guests: Denver Bierman and the Mile High Orchestra.

For more information or to register,

visit www.bassconvention.org or call (510) 585-9914

Special Seminars and Lunches:

Separate event held on March 6 at Neighborhood Church in Castro Valley for Christian Leaders and Church Ministry Assistants. Call (510) 352-7858.

Ministry Assistants Seminar

Kathy Stamp M. Ed.
The Five-Star Church Office

A very important area of ministry is the church office and its workers. Whether you are a part-time volunteer in a mid-sized or small church, a full-time administrative assistant in a large church, or the only person in the church office, this seminar is for you!



8:30 am - 4:30 pm Registration includes Continental Breakfast, Lunch and Refreshment Breaks.

Christian Leaders Luncheon & Seminar

Derwin L. Gray
Transformation Church

Derwin L. Gray is the Founding and Lead Pastor of Transformation Church, a multi-ethnic, multi-generational, mission-shaped community with two campuses in South Carolina



Christian Leaders Luncheon
11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
Christian Leaders Seminar
Registration at 1:00 p.m.
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Refreshment Break Included

Welcome to BASS 2014

I hope you are as ready for a great weekend of training and encouragement as we are.

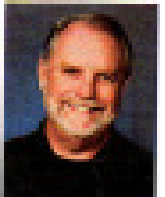
In preparation for BASS our team has prayed for you as we recognize that so many of you are on the front lines of ministry serving people in your churches and in your communities with God-honoring faithfulness. In a world of takers you all are the givers - you give of your time, your gifts, and your hearts - you have been "Called to Serve." Taking our lead from Jesus, the greatest servant of all, we want to honor you and your kingdom service this year at BASS. We trust that every workshop, every exhibitor, and every General Session that you attend will better prepare you and encourage you in your service through the local church.

Please know that our team is here to serve you in any way that we can so if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to let us know. God bless you as you grow in Him this weekend!

Thursday, 7:00 pm
Speaker - Derwin Gray
Special Guest - Rick Alonzo



Friday, 7:00 pm
Speaker - Larry Osborne
Worship - Denver & The Mile High Orchestra





Saturday 9:30 am
Speaker - Palmer Chinchon
Worship - Denver & The Mile High Orchestra



LIFE OF THE CHURCH

February 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SUNDAY MORNINGS: 9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults Contemporary Style Worship 11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth Classical Style Worship	All Events Are Subject to Change.					1 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
2 12:15 Romans 12 Growth Group	3 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Prayer Meeting	4 9am BSF Leaders 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm Women's Activity	5 5:30pm F.A.T. Dinner 6:30pm AWANAS 6:30pm Midweek Service 8pm Worship Rehearsal	6 9am BSF 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT	7	8 9am Leadership Breakfast/Meeting
9 12:30 Children's Ministry Lunch 12:15 Romans 12 Growth Group	10 7pm Boy Scouts	11 9am BSF Leaders 7pm Women's Ministry 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D.	12 6:30pm AWANAS 6:30pm Midweek Service 8pm Worship Rehearsal	13 9am BSF 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT 7pm Scouts Meeting	14 Valentines Day 	15
16 12:15 Romans 12 Growth Group	17 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Prayer Meeting 	18 9am BSF Leaders 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D.	19 5:30pm F.A.T. Dinner 6:30pm AWANAS 6:30pm Midweek Service 8pm Worship Rehearsal	20 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT	21	22
23 12:15 Romans 12 Growth Group	24 7pm Boy Scouts	25 7pm Women's Ministry 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 12pm 1st Ed. Deadline	26	27 9am BSF 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT	28	

About the Shelter Ministry

By Cathy Thomas

Just thought I would pass along the following report so that you would know what happened with our giving and how it was received.

Report on Christmas Giving Outreaches, 2013 InnVision Shelter Network Vendrome Program, Second Avenue, San Mateo

On a beautiful sunny day, the 17th of December, I delivered six gift cards to this facility. The person I had contacted turned out to be a man who was raking leaves in front of the building

When I arrived I gave him the box that held small gift bags and envelopes with the gift certificates inside. This gentleman was all smiles and was extremely grateful for our generosity.

I had been asked to deliver the gifts on this day as they were going to be distributed at their holiday party that very afternoon.

InnVision Maple Street Single Adult Shelter, Redwood City on the 18th of December

I drove to Redwood City, turned left onto Maple Street off Veterans Boulevard, and continued to wind my way back and forth to the shelter where there were groups of people talking in front of the building which was surrounded by a construction site. As I spotted the address, a young woman left the group of ladies with whom she was chatting to speak to me. When she confirmed that I was delivering gifts (nine gifts plus some gift cards) she began to smile. She asked a man to bring a cart and when he left to do that, she started collecting the bags of gifts I had brought with me.

Soon she had all the bags divided between her hands and sent the cart back when it arrived. She hugged me two times, thanking me for our generosity. She said that so many times the adults are forgotten at Christmas; people would rather give to children.

Single Woman with Three Girls living in an apartment on Amphlett in San Mateo

This lady had contacted Samaritan House about being put on a list to receive Christmas gifts, but they had already closed that program. Evidently they gave her a list of churches, and that is how she contacted us. So on December 23rd I took the gifts we had collected for this family. The young woman was thrilled when she saw me walk down the hall of the apartment as she had been watching for me. She explained that she and the girls have been living here for the last three years and been given some subsidies by county programs.

She takes the girls to school each morning on the bus since she has no other transportation. She works part time at a 7-Eleven that is located close by. This lady expressed a faith in God, said that she prays and knows that God hears her. She indicated that she would like to start going to a church and get the girls involved. I handed her a bulletin from FBC, along with my phone number, and said that we would be happy to give her a ride to church. The girls seemed very excited to open the gifts and most likely did so as soon as I left.

We gave each girl some items of warm clothing as well as a toy or gift card. We also gave the woman a gift card.

Support for Families at FBC

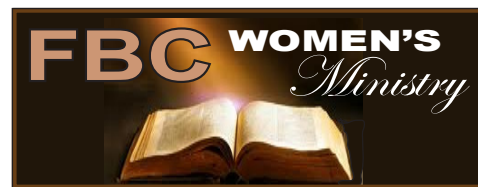
We also collected funds for an individual and a family at FBC. I don't know what the final outcome was, but I believe the individual was given at least one gift card, and the family was given some funds and maybe some gift cards.

I praise God for the way He used our congregation to bless others in need during this Christmas Season. It was such a blessing to see the love and generosity of believers in this body.

By Request

Here is a list of books that Pastor Marc is currently reading and quoting from many of them recently.

- Spirit Rising by Jim Cymbala.
- Fresh Power by Jim Cymbala,
- The Transforming Community by Mark Lauterbach,
- Cheque Book of Faith Charles Haddon Spurgeon,
- The Puritans Edited by Randall Pederson,
- Day by Day With J.C. Ryle,
- Through The Bible Through The Year by John Stott
- Breakthrough Prayer Jim Cymbala, ●
- Knowing God by J.I. Packer.



Study of Philippians

All women are invited to join the Women's Ministry, continuing Tuesdays, February 11 and 24 at 7pm in the Davidson Chapel.

- Prayer and Worship
- Teaching of God's Word in the book of Philippians
- Small Group Discussions.

FUNDS ARE NEEDED FOR FBC LEGAL EXPENSES

Because of the law suit, a Legal Defense Fund has been established for contributions toward this need. Be in prayer about this, and be obedient to whatever God tells you. We have seen many evidences of His presence with us throughout the past two plus years, and this is one way we can express our gratitude.

To contribute, use an envelope from the pew rack and mark it "Legal Defense Fund."

Special Offerings

For the month of February, the special offering taken at the close of Communion and received all month long goes to the Youth Camps Fund.

Waiting on God

By Sheryn Cockett

Too many times we think waiting is a waste of time but God considers waiting as working.

God is working in us to teach us patience, to have us trust him more, to prepare us for what's ahead. There are many reasons he can make us wait but be rest assured he has his reasons and it is in our best interest to wait. For God always gives us the best if we are willing to wait. Think about it: God never lets us down, He is always faithful. When you are waiting on God for something, keep your focus on him and count all the blessings He has given you and the wait won't seem as long....and don't forget to thank God while you are waiting as well as afterward.

Bible quotes on waiting:

- "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."
(Psalm 27:14)
- "Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield." (Psalm 33:20)
- "I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry."
(Psalm 40:1)
- "Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him." (Psalm 62:5)
- "I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope."
(Psalm 130:5)
- "The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing."
(Psalm 145:15,16)
- "And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." (Isaiah 25:9)
- "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)
- "We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first." (Hebrews 3:14)
- "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23)

Women's Ministry News

February is the month that brings to mind hearts. For us in Women's Ministry, every month is a reminder of hearts; the condition of our own hearts and the hearts of the women that God has entrusted to us. Our goal is to provide opportunities for the women at FBC to get connected to God. Why? It is because God wants their hearts. He wants them to be living for Him, and Him alone.

In order to carry out this goal we are currently offering two opportunities to study His Word, the first being the Women's class on Sunday mornings and the second the Tuesday night ministry. In these classes we are studying Philippians and Ephesians, two epistles of Paul, penned while he was in prison. We are seeing Paul's heart. His desire was to live for Christ and Christ alone. We read in Philippians 1:21 "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." This is an incredible challenge for all of us.

What has been exciting to see is how the learning from one class has crossed over to the other class and to see the women in each class applying what they have learned about Paul to both letters.

Do you want to go deeper in God's word? Do you want to co-operate with

By Sandy Murray

God in transforming your heart? Please attend one or both of these classes. To those of you who are attending already, our prayer for you is that you may "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

In March we will be providing another opportunity to grow in the word. At our Winter Retreat in Redwood Glen, we will be hearing Tami Strang speak on "Listening to God." We will then give you a time to be alone with Him in the beauty of our California Redwoods. See our flier, web site or any member of the Ministry Team for details.

Speaking of the website, the new FBC website is up and running. We are posting information about Women's Ministry to the site. We encourage you to visit the website and get familiar with it. We will be using it from now on to communicate with all of you and any new women interested in the church or women's ministry.

<http://www.fbcsanmateo.org>

Go to the website, click on events and a calendar will come up. Find March. click on Women's Winter Retreat and you will find information about the retreat.

Blessings to All,
The Women's Ministry Team



What: Women's Ministry - Winter Retreat

Topic: Tami Strang will be speaking on "Listening to God"

When: Friday March, 14 - Saturday March 15th

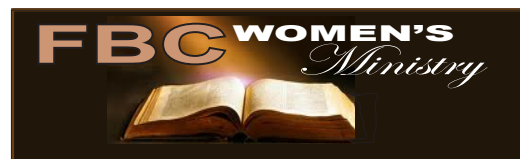
Check in on Friday: Check in anytime from 3pm on. Dinner is at 6:30.

Check out on Saturday, after lunch or as late as 5pm

Where: Redwood Glen Conference Center is located near Pescadero (South of Half Moon Bay) in the Redwoods.
Maps will be provided.

Cost: \$88.00 per person (double occupancy in all rooms) includes overnight lodging and three meals. Partial Scholarships are available (please see Sandy Murray if needed). Donations for others in any amount are welcome

Registration Continues Each Sunday
in the narthex before and after the 11:00 Service





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas
 San Mateo, CA 94403

Daily Bible Readings- February

The following Bible reading schedule was compiled by Robert Murray McCheyne in 1842. Using this Bible reading schedule you will read four portions of Scripture each day (two in the morning with "family" or individually and two in the evening in "secret" or privately), and read through the Old Testament once and the New Testament and Psalms twice in a year.

Sat	1	Gen. 33; Mark 4; Esther 9,10; Rom. 4
Sun.	2	Gen. 34; Mark 5; Job 1; Rom. 5
Mon.	3	Gen. 35,36; Mark 6; Job 2; Rom. 6
Tues.	4	Gen. 37; Mark 7; Job 3; Rom. 7
Wed.	5	Gen. 38; Mark 8; Job 4; Rom. 8
Thurs.	6	Gen. 39; Mark 9; Job 5; Rom. 9
Fri.	7	Gen. 40; Mark 10; Job 6; Rom. 10
Sat.	8	Gen. 41; Mark 11; Job 7; Rom. 11
Sun.	9	Gen. 42; Mark 12; Job 8; Rom. 12
Mon.	10	Gen. 43; Mark 13; Job 9; Rom. 13
Tues.	11	Gen. 44; Mark 14; Job 10; Rom. 14
Wed.,	12	Gen. 45; Mark 15; Job 11; Rom. 15
Thurs.	13	Gen. 46; Mark 16; Job 12; Rom. 16
Fri.	14	Gen. 47; Lk. 1:1-38; Job 13; I Cor. 1
Sat.	15	Gen. 48; Lk. 1:39-80; Job 14; Cor. 2
Sun.	16	Gen. 49; Luke 2; Job 15; I Cor. 3
Mon.	17	Gen. 50; Luke 3; Job 16,17; I Cor. 4
Tues.	18	Ex. 1; Luke 4; Job 18; I Cor. 5
Wed.	19	Ex. 2; Luke 5; Job 19; I Cor. 6
Thurs.	20	Ex. 3; Luke 6; Job 20; I Cor. 7
Fri.	21	Ex. 4; Luke 7; Job 21; I Cor. 8
Sat.	22	Ex. 5; Luke 8; Job 22; I Cor. 9
Sun.	23	Ex. 6; Luke 9; Job 23; I Cor. 10
Mon.	24	Ex. 7; Luke 10; Job 24; I Cor. 11
Tues.	25	Ex. Luke 11; Job 25,26; I Cor. 12
Wed.	26	Ex. 9; Luke 12; Job 27; I Cor. 13
Thurs.	27	Ex.10; Luke 13; Job 28; I Cor. 14
Fri.	28	Ex.11,12:21; Luke 14; Job 28; Cor. 15

Favorite Passages from God's Word

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me; Thou preparest for me a table in the presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." Psalm 23 KJV

Submitted by Sheryn Cockett with the remark, "I've turned to this Psalm many times when I am afraid."