

# view

June 5, 2005

## This Week's Agenda

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### The Lord's Day

8:30AM & 10:15AM

Sermon: David Posey

5pm Sermon: David Posey

5:30pm: Classes for all ages from 18 months and up

#### Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Sunday - Randy Clark, James
- Room 6: Bible Essentials - Dennis Wade
- Room 11-12: Young Adults, Marriage- David Posey

### Wednesday

7:30 PM - Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

#### Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Dennis Reagan, Current Issues
- Room 6: Bible Essentials - Dennis Wade
- Room 11-12: Young Adults, Marriage - David Posey

## News and Prayer Needs

### Prayer Concerns

Continue your prayers for: Larry Thompson, Sharon Bridge's brother; Wes Shamblin's grandparents; Tim Dickey; Anna, the little girl in the middle of an adoption crisis; Richard Harvey; Sharon Jones and Becky Woolpert; Carly Cain; Kathy Wilson (Parkinson's disease) and Hank (sleep apnea); Jamie Cole, Kristen Sanderson's sister; Jason Songer (friend of Justin Ivie). Those who are fighting cancer: Justin Ivie's dad (cancer and other undetermined health issues); Dave Fulton's mother, Monica (Monroe, WA); Tom Royston; Ken McClelland; Margaret Everett; Cheryl Wilson; Laurie Ann Reagan; Oliver Sasse.

Continue prayers for all the new children born recently and for the remaining expectant moms: Melissa Fields, Janelle Thorp, Amber Karlsson and Carly Posey.

### Out of Town

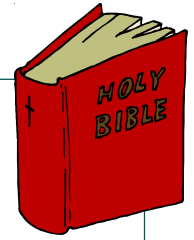
Troy and April Franklin, until June 14th.

### Christians Serving in Iraq

Jeremy Allen, Philip Cain, Steve Reis, Titus Cain, Philip Cain. Keep these good men in your prayers each day.

### Other Involvement Opportunities

The young mom's class meets again on June 16th. Please see Christie Posey or Angie Cain for information. The Ladies Workshop meets tomorrow night .



## Bible Reading

Sunday - II Samuel 21-24; Psalm 76

Monday - Colossians; Psalm 77

Tuesday - Reflection

Wednesday - I Kings 1-3; Psalm 78:1-39

Thursday - I Kings 4-6; Psalm 78:40-72

Friday - I Kings 7-9; Psalm 79

Saturday - I Kings 10-12; Psalm 80

Please see Denise Westphal for details.

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) is scheduled for August 1-5 this year. If you would like to help or need more information, please speak to Chandra Brown, David Byrd or one of the elders. See the back page for details.

The View contains news and articles of interest to the members of the Folsom Point church of Christ. Announcing an activity or event does not necessarily imply that we financially sponsor the event or that the elders specifically endorse every component of that event, since it may not fall under the direct oversight of the elders. The church's work and the elders' oversight is limited by Scripture. We will not announce events that are primarily social in nature. However, we do want to publicize those activities that provide an opportunity for you to be a more involved and active member of the body.

Editor

## Analogies of our relationship to Jesus

- The shepherd and his sheep
- The gardener and his vineyard
- The water of life and the thirsty
- The potter and the clay
- The father and his children
- The builder and the living stones
- The commander and his warriors
- The head and the body
- The heavenly bridegroom and his earthly bride
- The vine and his branches
- The high priest and his royal priesthood
- The light and the seeker of light
- The Master and his servants

# The Joy of Singing

**O**ur custom is to sing at least a few songs every time we get together. There would be nothing wrong with assembling and *not* singing hymns in a given assembly. The needs of the moment may dictate that we hold a special service to hear a report on some preaching (Acts 14:27) or to pray for some special need (Acts 12:5). But why would we want to gather and not sing if we had opportunity to do so?

Last Sunday, a good number gathered prior to Bible classes to sing together. It was a very pleasant and uplifting experience. We hope that even more will take advantage of the opportunity to praise God in song in these monthly singings.

Someone once said that we do not sing because we are happy, we are happy because we sing. God knows our frame (Psa. 103:14) and He knows what we need. Singing appeals to a special part of us like nothing else does.

Some would say that it is mostly our emotions that are being tugged when we sing. But, while no one can deny the emotional aspect of singing, the Bible does not emphasize that. In the “classic” passages that address the subject, the focus is on the edifying or teaching component in singing: “speaking to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs...” (Eph. 5:19); “...teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs...” (Col. 3:16). It may help to remember that the moving four-part harmonies that we are used to singing are of relatively recent vintage; our first century brethren had to settle for something closer to a chant. Ironically, chants have become incredibly popular lately.

In any case, the intellectual purpose in singing predominates, or it should. Why? If we are too impressed with the music or with the sound of many voices, we miss the point of worship. I admit to being a little disturbed when I hear folks talk as if 600 singing saints is more spiritual than 40. Is it true? Not to our Father in heaven. He hears legions of voices singing in His eternal heavenly morning. What is a mea-

sly 600 voices to Him? Those 40 voices (or 20 or 10 or 2) are just as precious.

That’s not to say we don’t get an emotional charge from good singing. I often do, and I enjoy it very much. But we must not get our priorities mixed up. It is this mixed up priority — putting emotion

**“I admit to being a little disturbed when I hear folks talk as if 600 singing saints is more spiritual than 40. Is it true? Not to our Father in heaven.”**

over content — that led to instrumental music. Again, do we think God needs an emotional boost? Remember, God is the audience.

I must confess that, when it comes to pure emotion, I am more moved while listening to a good, strong chorus sing praises to God than when I’m involved in the singing myself. I love my CDs of the Florida College Choir. Angie was in the choir on one of them, and Val (Bridge) Stauffer in another. They knock me out, they are so beautiful, so elevating. On one, the choir sings several of our friend Don Alexander’s songs, many of them arranged by Paula’s dad, R.J. Stevens. All of these songs are wonderful works of poetic praise. Those songs move me and touch my heart.

But I’m told to sing with grace and make melody in *my* heart. We’re instructed to teach and admonish each other. That’s the first role of congregational singing. We can’t do that if we’re sitting there like the proverbial bump on a log. Not to put too fine a point on it, but refusing to sing is one way to earn a one-way ticket to hell. It’s a command, as clear as any other. Young or old, the command is to sing and do it with *feeling*.

We have many voices and many able song leaders here at Folsom Point. We have no excuse for poor singing. What is that? It has nothing to do with the quality of voices. The beauty of God’s arrangement

in giving us music in this form is that everyone who can speak can do this work. Poor singing happens when you sing without feeling; I don't mean feeling as in emotion, but feeling as in coming from the heart. Our service to God at all levels must proceed from a heart that loves Him. If one can give his body to be burned, and still lose his soul because he did it without love, what of the poor sap who sings with an indifferent heart. Bad news. Good singing is sincere singing.

Good singing also requires good songs. What is a good song? Again, it has less to do with melody and harmony than with good poetry that accurately reflects the truth. "Poetic license" is one thing, but what practical difference is there between a *sung* lie and a spoken one? No matter how majestic the song or how fancy the arrangement, if it's not true, we'd better not sing it. Or if some portion of it is not true, we are obliged to leave that part unsung. For example, are you really going to "invite the archangel as guest"? Or, is it true that "in this life hardly a comfort can afford"? And then there's the misinterpretation of a passage turned into song. "Jesus, Rose of Sharon" and "Lily of the Valley" are based on incorrect allegories imposed on the Song of Solomon. Should we sing them? You be the judge. Just remember that fallible men write the songs we sing.

I don't know about you, but as I get older I find myself appreciating more and more the simple, less complex songs that have a simple message. I quickly tire of the fancy harmonies that leave me (as a bass) singing just part of the message, or that keep my eyes hopping around the page looking for my note. But I do believe I could sing "Be with Me, Lord" every week and not get tired of it. In any case, we should

give close attention to our singing. Sing; sing often; and sing from the heart.

dp

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900 E. Natoma  
PO Box 492  
Folsom, CA 95630  
916/608-4866

**Elders**

Randy Clark: 916/984-4788  
Dan Hamilton: 916/984-9617  
Kenneth Marrs: 916/851-9158  
David Posey: 530/676-9514

**Deacons**

Brent Agee: 916/786-0436  
Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230  
David Byrd: 916/985-6564  
Michael Caisse: 530/672-2902  
Steve Dickey: 916/983-1071  
Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048  
David Main: 916/363-9580  
Terry Raposa: 916/782-1140  
Dane Scott: 916/631-7221  
Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748  
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170  
Doug Wells: 530/672-1877

**Evangelist/Editor**

David Posey: 530/676-9514  
david@folsomchurch.com

**Services**

Sunday Morning Assembly  
8:30AM & 10:15AM  
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7:30 PM  
Classes for all ages.  
*Private classes arranged at your  
convenience.*

For more information,  
visit our web site at:

**[www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com)**

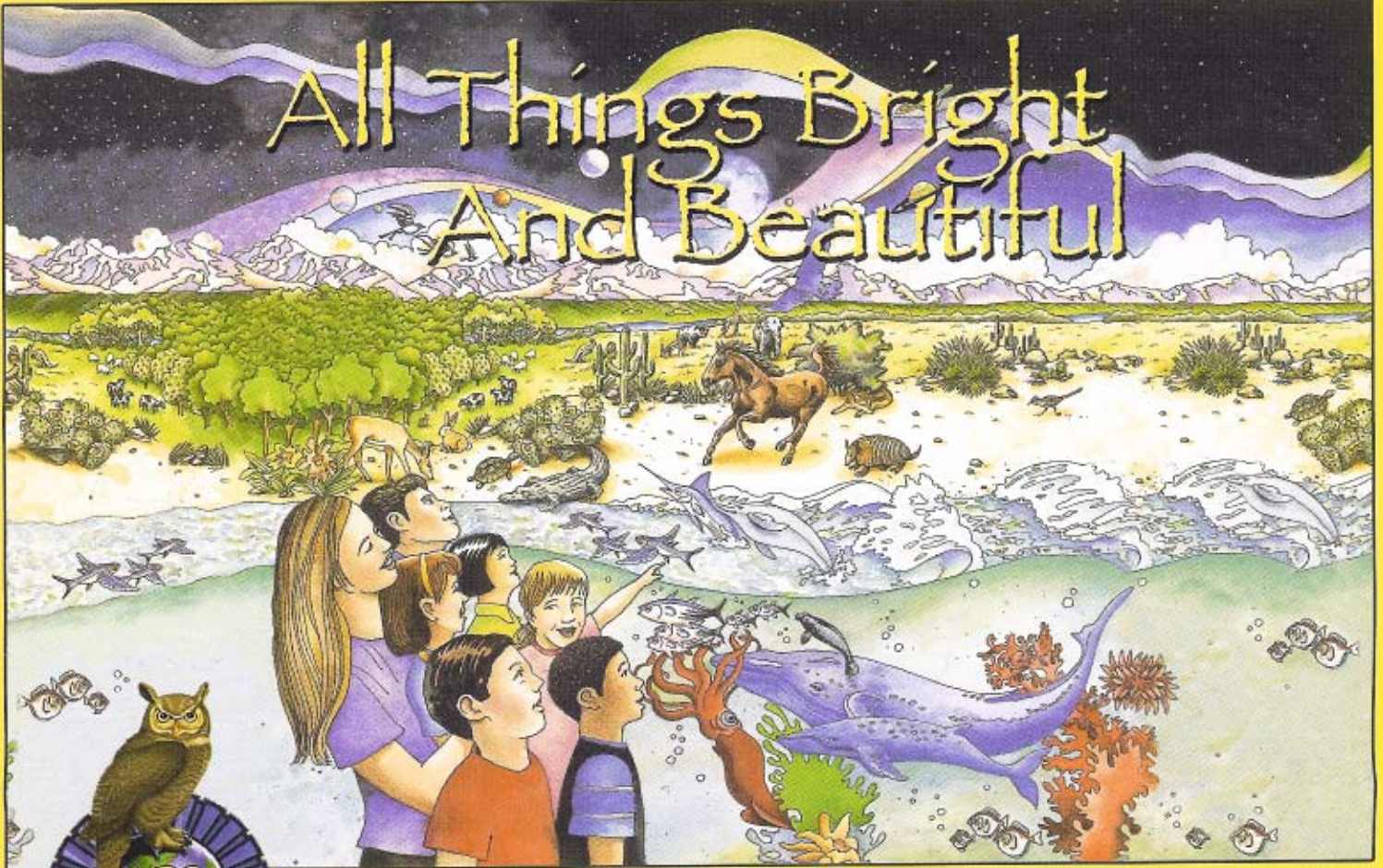
## Quotable

**"The reason why it's tough speaking of Jesus is much the same reason why they kicked him out after his first sermon at Nazareth—Jesus spoke of and enacted a Good News which assaulted our settled definitions of news."**

**William Willimon, Introduction to The Bible and the NY Times**

# Vacation Bible School

## All Things Bright And Beautiful



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**AUGUST 1-5, 2005**

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