

The Lord's Day

9:30 AM: Singing, Prayer, Lord's Supper, Sermon: The Story, David Posey

5 PM – Singing, **Prayer**, Lord's Supper, Prayer Service

Classes Offered This Week

Today at 5:30

Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

Auditorium: Judges

Room 11-12: Evangelism Workshop

Tuesday at 7 PM

John's Gospel: 7 PM. Place TBA

Wednesday

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

Auditorium – Minor Prophets

Room 11-12: Revelation 4-22: Victory in Jesus!

News & Prayer Concerns

"First of all, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men..."

New Arrival!

Michael Wayne Dickey was born on Thursday morning to Matt and Candee; he was a month early, but is doing very well. He came in at 6 lbs, 3oz, 18 1/2 inches long. Congratulations Matt and Candee Dickey and the entire Dickey family.

Prayer Concerns

Don't cease praying for David Ramsey; he will be having surgery for cancer on May 1st. Continue prayers for those who have recovered from cancer or are still dealing with it: Tom Royston, Frances Kaler, and others.

Carl Hanson's family has been told that he may not recover from his serious heart condition. In other words, his condition is very serious. Continue to pray for him and Arlene.

Continue to pray for Jackson Agee and the family, as they seek to remedy his heart condition. The doctors are having a difficult time finding a combination of drugs that suits him and the alternative, heart surgery, is not the preferred method of treatment at his tender age.

Keep Nola Mulligan, Nola Len, Woody Powell and Wally Colvin, Sr. in your prayers.

Continue to pray for Gwen's parents as they deal with health issues and remember Steve Bremer's nephew, Greg Bailey, who has terminal cancer and Steve's sister who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Charles Davis' wife's mother, Margaret Rickerd, passed away very early Saturday morning. She was 96 years old. Please keep Charles and Dawn in your prayers.

Pray for Sharon Jones, Hank and Kathy Wilson and for

those who are expecting: Amber Karlsson, Sarah Cain, Nicole Grinnell and Jamie Gardner, and for the couples that would like to have children, but have not been able.

Continue your prayers for those who serve our country, too, including: Brandon Folkert (the Terrys' nephew) and Danny Boyer.

Meetings Coming Up

There will be a teacher committee meeting here today at 3:30. Also, groups 2 and 3 will meet today right after services. An elders-deacons meeting is scheduled for May 3rd at 7:15 here.

Vacation Bible School

Please mark your calendar for June 25-29 for VBS and begin inviting your friends and neighbors.

Out of Town

There are several who are out of town today; pray for their safe travel.

Gospel Meetings

Reminder: Mark your calendar for October 8-10, 2007 for a meeting with Ed Harrell. We have also booked gospel meetings with Bob Owen in the Fall of 2008, Paul Earnhart in 2009 and Dee Bowman in 2011.

dp

Comfort in the Face of Suffering

April 18, 2007

by Julia Thompson (tothesource)

The community of Virginia Tech University is coping with the deadliest mass shooting in American history. Parents of the murdered wail with grief and outrage and the United States watches aghast. The “safety, sanctuary and learning” that President Bush observed ought to reign in our nation’s schools shattered amid blood and bullets—leaving 33 dead, the gunman, deranged senior, Cho Seung-Hui, amid the morbid count.

Fresh out of college myself I felt sick to my stomach when I looked up from my computer screen and cup of coffee to the TV set in my office Monday morning. I can feel the college routine in my bones... a lazy hit to the snooze button and a bleary walk to class on a quiet morning—concerned with whether the answers to last night’s problem set are right—not with the prospect of being slaughtered.

The surreal horror of the scene reminds me of the morning of Sept 11, 2001, my freshman year of college—across the country from home and family for the first time. The planes crashing into the twin towers turned the world inside out. On 9/11/01 my childish illusions of this world’s safety and goodness vanished, and I woke up to the chilling fact that there is no security blanket from suffering.

As media, administrators and law enforcement spring into necessary action at Virginia Tech—analyzing the evidence, and mobilizing practical care, the full force of anguish and perplexity are just sinking in. The actions the school takes may be helpful and earnest—but when it comes to making meaning of mortality and evil at their bloodiest, the secular University is flat-footed.

The secularist authorities are in a predicament. On campuses across the country some cynical professors relish the opportunity to ridicule students who believe in the “hocus pocus” of souls and the “fairytale” of God. Recently Harvard Professor Steven Pinker protested loudly at the suggestion that a “reason and faith” component be included as part of the curriculum standards: “Universities are about reason, pure and simple,” he trumpeted. “Faith—believing something without good reasons to do so—has no place in anything but a religious institution, and our society has no shortage of these. Imagine if we had a requirement for ‘Astronomy and Astrology’ or ‘Psychology and Parapsychology.’” To give such significance to religion “is to give it far too much prominence.”

After all, religious belief “is an American anachronism, I think, in an era in which the rest of the West is moving beyond it.”

What does the secular materialist have say about suffering when faced with the real deal? Perhaps Pinker would hand a Virginia Tech student a passage about how her loves and beliefs are just meaningless collisions of atoms. Likely she would prefer a simple, “My prayers are with you.” The smug materialists would do well to stop scoffing, and face the fact that their worldview fails to give adequate answers to those such as the students and families at Virginia Tech facing horrific loss. The same faith that is mocked in philosophy, English and science classes too often in secular classrooms is exactly what everybody turns to when faced with the problem of evil.

When I was at Tufts University one day the chapel kiosk read: “Atheist Service 7:00.” While this sort of dig at the sacred may be par for the course in academia today, I can’t help but think that it sounds like a tasteless joke in the face of the Virginia Tech devastation. What would this service have to offer real people suffering real loss? To whom would they make petition for comfort, and what hymns would they sing?

While I will never know the songs of the Tufts atheist congregation, I do know what they sang at the convocation service at Virginia Tech Tuesday. *Amazing Grace*.

During the ceremony University officials turned to leaders of the diverse religious communities on campus and thousands of students stood to recite the Lord’s prayer in unison. The question, “What is the meaning of this suffering?” seeks an ultimate answer—an answer from God. As it always does, the secular yielded to the sacred to make sense of suffering and evil.

There were no belittling giggles or rolled eyes in the crowd of thousands of students and teachers—no clever objections to the reality of the soul at the candlelight vigils held around campus. On everybody’s lips was “the victims and their families are in my prayers,” and “I thank God that I was saved.” Students, families and our national community have come together before God this week—praying in solidarity for comfort from a benevolent maker.

After September 11 the churches of America were filled to the brim for a reason. Following the massacre at

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Transitions

Sadly, some of our members will be moving away. Carl and Arlene Hanson have already relocated to Fairfield to be closer to family who can take care of their needs. It won't be the same around here without them; they were always here, when they could be, and always in good spirits, the kind of people who made your day a little brighter. We will really miss them.

Paul and Linda Hewitt are also relocating after being with us only a relatively short time. Paul has taken a teaching position with the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Today will be Paul's last Sunday (he plans to be here Wednesday night). Linda will follow in June, after school is over for the year. She will return in August to continue teaching here for the time being, so we hope to see Paul now and then after that. The Hewitt's have been a joy to us here and, having come out of an evangelical denomination, they bring a perspective that has helped me at many levels. I know they will be a great asset to the congregation they attend in Arkansas.

Craig and Janelle Fender are moving to San Jose where Craig has gotten a job with Ebay. Craig has been here almost as long as we have – we came in 1994, Craig was baptized in 1995. He has been one of our most faithful and involved young men from the very beginning. Who can forget his talk several years, when he brought an entire computer up to the pulpit, in separate parts, and, hoisting several of the parts said, "This was my life before I was a Christian." He then proceeded to put the parts back in the computer to show what Jesus had done for him. Ah, but he was still missing something – then along came Janelle to make his life complete. His waiting for the right woman to be his paid off. Janelle is a jewel, to be sure, and we were all so happy for both of them. Along with their sweet little boy, Keiden, we have come to love them dearly and it goes without saying that we will miss them very much. We are very happy for their good fortune, however, and we know that the folks at Miller Ave. in San Jose (from whence Janelle came) are thrilled that they are returning. They will be a big boost to their work there.

Magnus and Amber and Emma and the new baby (to come) will be moving to Virginia in a couple of months, but we'll talk about that later. I don't want to think about it now.

Fortunately, there are also some who have or will move here and begin attending with us. We'll talk about those additions as they identify with us. Meanwhile, let's wish those who are leaving us well.

dp

Virginia Tech people again turn to God for answers. There is a chink in the armor of the University's stubborn secularism that falls painfully short. Perhaps real necessity will dictate a turn. We welcome the University's uncharacteristic openness to the sacred. Please join us as we lift up the victims, families and community of Virginia Tech in our prayers.

"In service, in our serving..."

Romans 12:7

Our information box has grown larger because seven men have stepped up and agreed to serve as deacons and Forrest Brown has taken on the role of one of our elders. We appreciate their willingness to help in our efforts to grow and serve our Lord here at Folsom Point.

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The church of Christ

Meeting at 900 E. Natoma

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Elders

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Dan Hamilton: 916/933-3569

Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048

David Posey: 530/676-9514

Deacons

Brent Agee: 916/786-0436

Bryan Byrd: 916/351-9320

David Byrd: 916/985-6564

Michael Caisse: 530/672-2902

Jeff Clark: 916/985-8689

John Daniels: 916/985-3090

Jerry Deschler: 916/285-9115

Steve Dickey: 916/983-1071

Steven Doty: 916/933-5004

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Services

Sunday Morning Assembly

9:30AM

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

Calendar for the Folsom Point church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The Lord's Day Young Peoples' Class	2	3 7 PM Gospel of John	4 7:30 PM Bible Classes	5	6	7
8 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	9	10 7 PM Gospel of John	11 7:30 PM Bible Classes	12 Elders Meeting	13	14
15 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	16	17	18 7:30 PM Bible Classes	19	20	21
22 The Lord's Day Group Meetings: #2 & #3 Teacher Committee Meeting: Here @ 3:30	23	24 7 PM Gospel of John @ Clark's	25 7:30 PM Bible Classes	26	27	28
29 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	30					

Mark Your Calendar

May 3, Elders-Deacons Meeting. 7:15, here.

June 25-29, Vacation Bible School

October 8-10, 2007 - Meeting with Ed Harrell

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 and encourage those activities that provide an opportunity to be built up in the faith and provide an opportunity for you be a more involved and active member of the body at Folsom Point.

ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT FOLSOM

We are a church of Christ patterned after the New Testament example of local churches. We believe in the authoritative word of God and will provide you with a Bible answer for everything we do in our doctrine and practice. We exalt Jesus Christ and seek to glorify Him, not ourselves (Ephesians 3:21). Therefore, our efforts are directed toward promoting commitment to Christ, not to any man or institution (I Corinthians 2:5).

Our assemblies are simple. We sing without use of an instrument (see Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; we will be happy to show you why we use no instrument, if you desire further study on this issue). We pray (I Timothy 2:1), partake of the Lord's Supper each first day of the week (I Corinthians 11:23-29; Acts 20:7) and teach from God's word. All preaching comes from the Bible.

The financial support of this congregations comes entirely from the free-will offerings of its members made on the first day of the week (I Corinthians 16:1-2; II Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-7). We never solicit funds from non-members. Contributions are used for the spiritual growth of this church and for the support of a few men in other areas, such as the Philippines, who are preaching the gospel. We do not use money collected here for social programs or the support of any human institution. We believe the church itself can do all the work God has given it to do. And we aim to do *only* the work God has given it to do – teach the gospel, build up the members, and help needy Christians. All other "good work" is the responsibility of individual Christians (Titus 2:11-14; James 1:27; Galatians 6:9-10).

We offer personal Bible studies at your convenience. We are here to help you with your spiritual needs: please favor us with a request for a Bible study or correspondence course that you can complete at your pace.