

View

May 6, 2007

This Week's Agenda

The Lord's Day

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

5 PM – Singing, **Prayer**, Lord's Supper, Sermon: David Posey

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. Karlsson's Home.

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..."

Prayer Concerns

David Ramsey, recovering from surgery; his surgery was successful for which we are thankful.

Carl and Arlene Hansen. Dealing with Carl's very serious heart condition.

Jackson Agee, recovering from heart surgery and still in some pain.

Donna Thompson, recovering from surgery and complications.

Dillon Franklin, the 3-year young son of Geoff Franklin (Dawn Woolington's brother) has "neuroblastoma," a very serious illness that has not been fully corrected through his recent surgery. He will have to undergo chemo and radiation treatments, apparently.

Steven Bremer and family who are mourning the lost of Steve's nephew, Greg Bailey; and Steve's sister, recently diagnosed with breast cancer.

Gwen Scott's father who had surgery for cancer; the surgery was successful, but continue to pray for his recovery.

Continue to pray for Sharon Jones, Hank and Kathy Wilson and for those who are expecting: Amber Karlsson, Sarah Cain, Nicole Grinnell, Jamie Gardner, April Franklin 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).

Meetings Coming Up

Check with the deacon in charge of your group to find out when your group meeting is scheduled. Steve Dickey's group will meet tonight after Bible classes.

Vacation Bible School

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

Out of Town

I have not been informed of any who are out of town except Richard Harvey and Trey Cain, who is on reserve duty this weekend.

Visitor Followup

We want to do a better job of following up on those who visit us and fill out a visitor card. If you would like to help, including occasionally sending notes to visitors, please check the bulletin board for copies of recent visitor cards and/or ask Dane Scott to put you on the e-mail list to receive information about our visitors.

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



**Read your Bible
each day, and
spread the word!**

Denominational Leaders Facing Some Realities

One day a preacher said to a friend, “We have just had the greatest revival the church has experienced in many years.”

“How many did you add to the membership,” came the predictable reply.

“None. We lost five hundred.”

— Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*

I subscribe to *Leadership Magazine*, a journal devoted to discussing items of interest to preachers and leaders of churches (it has a denominational perspective so I take everything with a grain of salt). Its subtitle is “Real Ministry in a Complex World.” Can’t argue with the need for that – real ministry, real service in a world that has so many layers, so many religious and political ideas – it is, indeed, “a complex world” (Terry Raposa tells us that it is also a “Microbial World.” Ask him.).

The latest issue of the magazine is fascinating, precisely because of its denominational flavor. What many authors of the articles in this issue have come to realize is that the “find a need and fill it” churches are having lots of problems just trying to keep up with filling needs. One author says, “We need more youth workers.’ ‘We need more small group leaders.’ ‘We need more children’s workers.’ The ‘needs’ within a congregation are never satisfied and that draws the church’s focus inward.” For the record, “inward” is not where the church ought to be focused. We are to preach the gospel to everyone (Mt. 28:18-20).

These denominations have been offering all these services because they set out to be “seeker” churches. In these churches, the point has been to get people over the threshold with the appeal of “meeting their [physical] needs” and offering the gospel later as the antidote for what really ails them. But, to their surprise (?), they’re finding that they are attracting a lot of people who are not particularly interested in a spiritual solution to their physical problems. So the churches are full, all right; full of needy people, most of whom are secular to the core and have little interest in God and Christ. They are happy, though, because their needs are filled and their consciences are salved because they are part of a “church.”

Many denominational leaders have observed this phenomenon in their churches and thus this whole issue of *Leadership* is devoted to “Going Missional” (yes, this is a term coined by religious people who think they have to come up with terms that regular people don’t understand; I call it “theobabble” or “ecclesia talk”). “Going Missional” simply means spreading the gospel into the world. At Folsom Point, we have been “going missional” for many years, through our support of preachers in other parts of the world. But these denominations are “going missional” as a response to the dead-end goal to “meet needs” of the Americans who come to their churches.

Look at some of the article titles in this issue: “We Aren’t About Weekends.” In other words, it doesn’t all begin and end with Sunday services. Here’s another: “Missional: Possible – Steps to transform a consumer church into a missional church.” And another: “We Can’t Do Megachurch Anymore: What happens when an ‘attractional’ church (more theobabble! An “attractional” church is another name for a “seeker” church) is compelled to go in a different direction?”; “Wreck the Roof”: Are we willing to take the church apart to bring people to Jesus?” Quite a radical concept: in other words, are they willing to move away from their particular denominational orthodoxy and do the work of preaching the gospel in the world? They anticipate that many in the church would rebel and any movement away from orthodoxy.

Interesting, huh? It was Baptist preacher Vance Havner who made the observation that most religious movements begin with a man, become a movement, then the movement becomes a machine, and finally it turns into a monument. Of course, the “man” is Jesus. Jesus the God-man started a movement that has swept through the world. But efforts to streamline the preaching of the gospel has fostered many innovations never authorized by God and turned much of the movement into a machine. Eventually, for these churches, the man is forgotten, the movement dies and the church becomes a monument that commemorate the good old days when they were a “movement.”

Unfortunately, this problem is not confined to denominations. There are many local churches of Christ like that (actually, there are fewer all the time as many of these churches have shut the doors to their meeting places permanently; others are just waiting for someone to come along and preach the funeral). Somewhere along the line, the church lost its way, got focused on itself and the church is just a shell of what it was in its

heyday. Man, movement, machine, monument . The denominations are suffering this because they have made man, instead of the man, the focus and are seeking to meet the needs of man with the aim, theoretically, of meeting their real needs (spiritual) later on. It doesn't work and, more importantly, the Bible does not sanction that approach. Notice in Acts 2 that the teaching came first and there is no appeal at all to "coming to church to have your needs met" (other than saving oneself from this "crooked generation"). And after the church is established... well, let's put it this way: v. 42 (spiritual concerns) comes before vv. 44ff. (physical concerns).

Jesus, after he fed the five thousand, puts this human propensity into words in John 6:26, "Truly, truly, I say to you..." When Jesus says "truly, truly..." something follows that is especially worthy of our attention. He says, "you seek me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves." When will we learn that it is all about God, not about ME!! God knows what we need. We think we know but unless our thinking is shaped by God, we are sadly mistaken, most of the time.

In the magazine, one preacher/author makes the brilliant observation, under the title "9 Things I am Learning and Unlearning," that he has learned that churches default to self-focus unless a commitment to be like Jesus in the world comes first. All I can say in response is, "Duh!!"

But this author makes some other more insightful observations and they are worth thinking about. He says, "I'm learning that being glocal (theobabble alert: glocal, presumably, refers to a local church that has gone "missional") means decentralizing power, decision-making, information, all of it. The kingdom of God means ministry opportunities are available to almost everyone." Sounds like what we have been talking about for years – we call it "local autonomy."

He also says, "I'm unlearning... the assumption that 'Christian' is defined primarily as acknowledging a moment of conversion. Becoming a follower of Jesus depends on what happens after that." While one

becomes a Christian at baptism, he's certainly right that Christianity requires a lifetime commitment. "Be faithful unto death" (Rev. 2:10).

Another: "I'm unlearning... the American church's traditional focus on a super-star speaker, worship leader, educator and shepherd, which serves mainly to attract spectators rather than igniting the power of everyone else." This is really a good observation. Clearly, there are many megachurch's and other denominations that rise and fall according to the fortunes of one man. But some churches of Christ fall into the same trap. That's why God, in His infinite wisdom, divvied the work of leadership up to as many men in a local church as are qualified.

At Folsom Point, we should take careful note of these realizations of some denominational leaders. First, it tells us that our stubborn appeal to the Bible for all we do in faith and practice is vindicated by these men who are discovering that their human approaches are failing miserably. The Bible gives us all we need to do God's work. Second, it should remind us to think carefully about what we think the church "needs." We tend to slip over to the man-side, because we are "men" (i.e., in the flesh). Good Bible reading and study always reminds us to give God his proper place and to God where He belongs: at the center of everything, both in the church and in our daily walk.

dp

Preachers We Support

John Scholtz - South Africa, Zimbabwe
Robert Nichols - Japan
Barney Mejia - Nicaragua
Dale Pennock - Vermont
Gary Stouffer - Vista, CA
Jim Lee - Englewood, Ohio
Jeff Carr - Mandeville, LA
Roberto Tondelli, Rome, Italy **(New)**

Philippines

Armando C. Pastor - Sto. Domingo & Dumabel
Pepe G. Ando - Davao City
Amado M. Estoy - Iriga City
Ecclesiastes C. Licayan - Monkayo
Abe S. Aguete - Pagudpud
Rex M. Bayaca - Laoag City
James Amangan - Bangued
Quirino Tien - Cuyayan Valley
Rosilito F. Nardo in Koronadal City.
Johnny Buguis in General Santos City.



Mark Your Calendar...

This Week

Group Meeting Tonight, Steve Dickey's home right after Bible classes.

Young people's meeting at the Daniels, after Bible classes.

Tuesday night at 7PM: John Class at the Karlsson's.

June 25-29, VBS

October 8-10, Meeting with Ed Harrell

Communication: The calendar is provided by the elders in an effort to enhance communication about upcoming events. There are other means that we use for this purpose: the news section of the View, the overhead announcements prior to morning services, and verbal announcements on Sunday and Wednesday of matters not covered there. Also, please ask Richard Harvey about getting on his e-mail list - many times, information is shared among the members on that list.

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.

Published by

The church of Christ

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

Elders

Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230
Randy Clark: 916/939-5066
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
Eric Fields: 916/817-6495
David Main: 650/292-5417
Terry Raposa: 916/782-1140
Dane Scott: 916/631-7221
Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170
Jeff Warshaw: 916/933-9399

Evangelist/Editor

David Posey: 530/676-9514

dp@folsomchurch.com
poppy@poppyskids.com

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