



Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Castroville

January 2016

Our Youth Are On The Move

Youth on the Hill... what is that?

By Dave Bower, Interim Youth Minister

This is THE EVENT you don't want to miss. Our youth ministry is moving!

Don't be alarmed, we are staying on the campus, just relocating to the old sanctuary (new Youth House).

Suite 180 will be playing as we open the doors on Sunday morning, January 24. This will be a Christian concert and we will have some refreshments, testimonies, a skit, and, of course, God's word. Save the date and invite your friends. This is your youth ministry, but all ages are welcome to come and see what God is doing and HAS done in the lives of young people.

Music will be loud, arms will be lifted high, and God will be praised as we celebrate His goodness and mercies. Come be a part of all that God has in store for us and celebrate this occasion as we open the doors for what is next.

What might that be?

We are looking forward to the New Year. God has created so many opportunities for us in 2015...

- Supporting children's camp with youth leadership;
- Disciple Now (DNow);
- The drama club;
- Youth Camp crazy antics and memories;
- Friday night hang-outs and Football;
- Sports Sundays;
- Angels' Crossing partnership;
- World Vision ministry partnership;
- The bon fires and memories shared over a marshmallow;
- Eagle Pass mission trips;
- ROCK BAND;
- Youth Sundays sharing God's word and serving the congregation;
- and most importantly, the gift of God's word! As the Lord continues to reveal himself to our ministry, we are so thankful for how

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'Youth House' To Open

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Membership Class

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Watoto Children Perform

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New Sunday School Lessons

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Business Meeting Change



JANUARY

Jan. 3 (Sun) – Fellowship, 9:30am. Worship, 10:30am.

Jan. 6 (Wed) – AWANA resumes.

Jan. 10 (Sun) – Membership Classes begin, 10am, Education Building.

Jan. 10 (Sun) – Church Council after 2nd service.

Jan. 10 (Sun) – Auditions for Praise Team singers and instrumentalists, 4pm.

Jan. 16 (Sat) – CPR/First Aid Training provided by Debra McDonel. Cost: \$40.

Jan. 21 (Thur) – San Antonio Food Bank Truck in our parking lot, 2pm. Volunteers needed at 1pm.

Jan. 24 (Sun) – Youth On The Hill Grand Opening Event, 10am-Noon, Chapel.

Jan. 24 (Sun) – Business Meeting, 5 pm.

Jan. 25 (Mon) – KiDs Beach Club® begins at Castroville Elementary School, 3-4:30. See p. 3.

Jan. 31 (Sun) – Watoto Children's Choir Performance from Africa, both services.

Youth look toward their future

(Continued from Page 1)

He provides us with words and ideas that reach the young people of this community.

On and on, there are so many different things that your young people are involved with; these are just a few of the highlights. But let's not forget the most important aspects of why we are here...

The Youth Ministry's vision and purpose is to see young men and women confident in their faith; following the Lord and seeking opportunities to serve others.

We (The Youth Ministry) exist to equip young people with biblical wisdom and knowledge – providing a safe and caring environment that develops our youth spiritually and emotionally, while providing an opportunity to hear truth and seek God.

That is exactly what is happening. God has done that for us here in Castroville and continues to work His plan.

Throughout the year we had young men and women receive Christ as their Savior; others rededicated themselves to following after our Lord; and still others made public professions of faith and followed in believer's baptism. As I said before, it has simply been an amazing year for us and the expectations for 2016 are even higher! We will not limit God, and are committed to His will.

We will continue to move forward with our service to the kingdom, we will continue to look for opportunities to serve others. We will lift up the name of Jesus Christ at every opportunity, and we will do it while having fun and creating lasting memories.

In closing, we are super-excited about what God has in store for Castroville and how our new facility (the Youth House) will be used to plant and water the seeds that He alone has sown. We hope you will stop by and spend some time with us, but be careful . . . God may have something in mind for you!

Hope to see you soon! And bring a friend. . .



Only 18 people attended the December Business Meeting when the \$800,000 budget was adopted.

In an attempt to increase the number who can attend the Business Meetings and be involved in important decisions of the church, the meetings will be at 5 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month on a trial basis for three months. Due to a conflict on Jan. 17, the January meeting will be on Jan 24.

With the meetings on Wednesday evenings, AWANA and Youth participants could not attend. And sometimes school events keep people away. So the church decided to publicize them better and to change the time for a quarter to see if the time change builds attendance.

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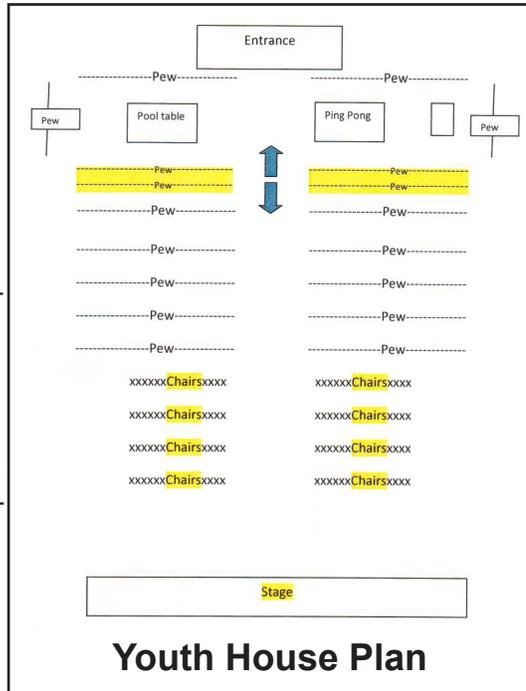
The youth are moving to the Chapel, so the portable building will be designated for missions needs, including distribution of food and clothes, and for miscellaneous storage, effective Feb. 1.

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Our church is growing, the number of staff members is growing, and we need more office space. To try to accommodate this need, the Pastor and Administrator will move to a couple of the former Children's classrooms in the Education Center.

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Do you want to be better connected to what's happening? If you are not getting emails about upcoming events at the church, it may be because you have never given your email address to the office. Please fill out a guest form (attached to the bulletin) on Sunday or send your email address to fbccastroville@sbcglobal.net to be added to the email blasts.



Sunday School classes from children to adults to study the same curriculum

THE GOSPEL PROJECT is coming to FBCC on January 10.

The Gospel Project® is a chronological, Christ-centered Bible study for Kids, Students, and Adults that examines how all Scripture gives testimony to Jesus Christ.

Over the course of three years, participants will

journey from Genesis to Revelation and discover how God's plan of redemption unfolds throughout Scripture and still today, compelling them to join the mission of God.

Please come join us as the kids, students and four of our adult classes start this journey on Sunday, Jan. 10, during our Sunday School hour.

CLASS FOR NEW MEMBERS WILL CONNECT THEM TO FBCC

It's a very exciting time to be a part of FBC-Castroville. God is doing really incredible things in our church, and I can't wait to see what He has in store for us in 2016.

One of the coolest things that I have seen over the last 6 months is how the Lord is leading people to our church who have either never been a part of the Baptist denomination, or have never even been a part of any church at all.

As a result, though, we have a lot of people joining our congregation who are not accustomed to some of the traditions of a Baptist church.

Questions regarding our doctrinal interpretation of Scripture, our understanding of Baptism and Communion, our take on discipleship, as well as our approach to church polity and leadership can be somewhat confusing to a brand new member.

FROM PASTOR JOEL

The Church voted at the October Business Meeting to offer a membership class, which will be taught on a continuous basis, beginning Jan. 10.

The six-week class will meet during the Sunday School hour in the Education Building.

To address this need in our church, we are starting a New Members Sunday School class that will begin this upcoming Sunday, January 10.

The class will be co-taught by René Maciel and Wesley Williams.

Everyone who joins our congregation will have the opportunity to attend this six-week class, and learn about how we approach ministry here at FBC.

But this class is not strictly

limited to new members. Anybody who wants to learn more about the Baptist faith is more than welcome to attend. To make sure everyone has an opportunity, the class will have a permanent status in our 10 o'clock Sunday School hour.

I'm very excited that we are going to be able to offer this program to anyone and everyone who wants to attend.

And I would strongly encourage everyone to consider stopping by at some point. This is a wonderful opportunity for any member at any age to learn a little more about why we do what we do.

There is also a good chance you may even see your pastor in there from time to time. If anyone can help someone get his theology straightened out, I'm sure it would be René and Wesley.

I hope to see you there!

KIDS BEACH CLUB STARTS JAN. 25

We are pleased to announce our partnership with KiDs Beach Club® will officially begin January 25 at Castroville Elementary School. This is a 13-week commitment every Monday from 3 – 4:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping out as a volunteer, please contact Tina Santee or Natalie Khantharoth.

KiDs Beach Club® desires to provide every 3rd - 6th grade boy and girl with a Jesus experience within the culture of his or her public elementary school.

This innovative ministry was established to mobilize the Church to go outside its walls in order to take the message of Christ into the heart of its community. Beach Clubs are high energy, fun-filled "kid-centered" clubs that meet after school one day a week.

Welcome To Our New Members in November

Justin & Ali Bischak

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Mary Lou Burges

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Lori Crisp

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Luis Cuellar

Watoto Children's Choir presents new production

Two years ago, FBC-Castroville welcomed a vibrant, energetic choir of youngsters from Africa, and they are returning on Jan. 31 to perform at both services.

They and their sponsors will be staying in homes of our congregation and will thrill your hearts, says Claudia Williams, who is coordinating the visit.

Imagine a new Africa. Reborn, revived, rebuilt. The all-new production, "Oh What Love" by the Watoto Children's Choir, presents the vitality of the new Africa. Its vibrance, urban sound and colour takes you on an emotional journey from utter despair to joyous celebration, as the children share their stories.

The tour began in January 2015, bringing a dynamic worship experience by those who were once orphans, sharing their journeys to redemption and demonstrating God's desire to be a loving father to all mankind.

"After losing my parents I felt lonely, with no one to love me. Now I know that God is my father. He loves and cares for me. In the choir, I am going to show people that God loves them too," says six-year-old Jackie Nakku.

Gary Skinner, Watoto Founder says, "God's heart for the margin-



alised is not just to see individuals rescued but rather to see them thrive as their lives are transformed by His good news. The stories of the children are real and represent thousands of others who are experiencing this incredible transformation."

Based on the Bible verse, 1 John 3:1, "See what kind of love the father has given us, that we should be called children of God,

and so we are," prepare for a unique worship experience. Underscored with the original sounds and rhythms of Africa, it blends traditional and modern dance.

Since 1994, Watoto children's choirs have travelled all over the world sharing the plight of Africa's orphaned and vulnerable, making an appeal to help raise these children so that they can rebuild their nation.

Each of the children in the choir has suffered the loss of one or both of their parents and they have been rescued and now live in a Watoto village.

"All the children were once orphans. Through their unique personalities, they now communicate and share the sense of belonging they found in God their father. The concert is aimed at passing on a message of recommitment to God, as He desires to be a father to all," says James Skinner, Creative Director, Watoto Children's Choir.

This newsletter is the leadership's way to keep you "in the loop." To submit items, send to gcarnes2@satx.rr.com. Deadline is the Sunday after the monthly Business Meeting. It is sent via email and is available on the News tab of the church website.

If you do not have Internet or Email access or know someone who does not, please contact the church office to receive a printed copy.

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