

# Church Life News

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**First Christian**  
CHURCH of VISALIA



## Mike's Musings

This is it! The most important day in the year is approaching... Resurrection Sunday! Paul simply states to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15) without the resurrection we have nothing and all our efforts are in vain. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ we have the great hope of sharing in the resurrection as well. As exciting as this is for many of us, the hope of eternal life, for others it is too abstract and too distant to mean much to them...they are more concerned with the now, and the resurrection doesn't seem to address that.

Most human beings spend much of their time and energy seeking significance for their lives, whether it is a conscious or subconscious endeavor. The most obvious expressions of this are found in the attempts to acquire wealth or status, or through various accomplishments. If examined closely even the seemingly most trivial aspects of our lives are attempts to add meaning. The tragedy is that most of these efforts do not bring real meaning, joy or happiness to our lives, hence the Word of God says, "The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear with hearing." In our efforts to add meaning to our lives we consistently seem to be one more effort shy of reaching our goal. No human can ever accomplish their goal of bringing meaning to their lives until they become rec-

onciled and have a right relation with God. As St. Augustine stated it, *"Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee."*

The relevancy of the resurrection is not only for the life after this, but for right here and right now. Only through the resurrection can our hearts rest in God. We no longer have to be richer, smarter, stronger, better, etc., than everyone else, or find some way to express our uniqueness through tattoos, cars, hairstyles, etc. Our ultimate eternal value was confirmed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We just have to deny ourselves, our efforts to bring meaning to our lives and trust in Him. All is given, all is forgiven, all is accomplished and completed through the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When one grows into deeper understanding of the significance of the resurrection, the only appropriate response is to feel utter relief and joy, praising God for all He has done and will do.

Let us celebrate together the most important event in the history of mankind...the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ! He has risen! He has risen indeed! Amen and amen!

In Christ,  
Pastor Mike

# Holy Week

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**Holy Thursday - March 20**  
7:00PM - Communion Service  
8:00PM - 24 Hour Prayer Vigil

**Good Friday - March 21**  
11:15 - "Stations of the Cross"  
walk from St. Mary's Catholic  
Church to the Fox Theater  
12:00 - Good Friday Service at  
the Fox Theater

**Easter Sunday - March 23**  
7:00AM - Sunrise Service  
7:45AM - Breakfast  
10:15AM - Worship  
11:45AM - Egg Hunt



We are in need of:  
Regular sized plastic eggs (to be  
stuffed). 1 large box of rainbow  
Goldfish crackers.  
Please bring these items to the  
church office by Sunday, March 16.  
If you have questions, please call  
Gigi Shacklett 625-8850.

## Christ in the Passover

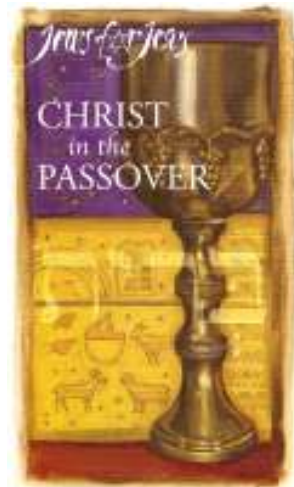
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*Sunday, April 27, 2008*  
*10:15 AM Worship Service*

Christ in the Passover shows the link between the ancient Festival of Redemption and Christ as the Lamb of God—your church members will never forget it! This sermonic demonstration is visual, so the congregation will actually see a table set with traditional Passover items. The missionary uses Scripture as well as the visual items to walk through a Jewish Passover

Seder, weaving the story of the Exodus together with the life, death and resurrection of Christ. The words He spoke in the upper room come alive as each Hebraic item is carefully explained. Many churches finish this powerful presentation by celebrating communion, and most who have tell us that Christ in the Passover has deepened their church's communion experience.

Invite a friend!



## Prayer Concerns

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### Health

Joyce Allen  
Kelly K  
Kay Bartell  
Billie Bell  
Jenn Blackburn  
Betty Cates  
Bob Eastin  
Kristie Evans  
Don Jones  
David Huff  
Marsha Jepson  
Thell Maynard  
Eileen Pettinger

Frank Morales  
Thelma Mortenson  
Glenn Pratt  
David Smith  
Jean Stevenson  
Glen Wells  
Irene Slocum  
Joan Willis  
Matt Joslin  
Kole (child)(brain tumor)  
Sharina

### Missionaries

*Misheck Kanake-Kenya*

*Newkirks-Bruce and Bev*  
*Thailand-Fox & Turls*

### Accident Recovery

Kariel Young (Fragile)

### Military

Lane Boland  
Matthew Calhoun  
Ervin Edwards  
Nikki Walz  
Casey Wightman  
Cody Wood

### Working of Miracles

Jesus Banuelos(brain tumor)  
Steve (New Liver)  
Lisa Ann Bachman  
Brenda Dr. say 1 yr to live

### Thank you for praying

Thank you for the prayers for my son Bruce Baker and Bobby Sousa. Bruce's neck surgery was successful and Bobby is now out of pain and with the Lord.

God Bless, JoAnne Jordan

## Youth Ministries

Our goal in the FCC Youth Group is to reach teens with Christ, and engage them in a battle to bring Christ into our world. Our goal is to make a difference, to get involved in what is happening around us, not just sit on the sidelines spouting commentary about what we see. We are not about just another notch on our belts in winning teens to Christ, but also to disciple leaders that will go out and be more than what is expected.

We are getting ready to start the Sound Off for Poverty. This event raises money for the poor in our community; it trains teens in what is happening around us, and challenges them to a 3-day media fast. For those that don't know, a media fast is giving up all forms of media – cell phone, Internet, television, non-Christian music, etc. It is a way to clear our mind from the world's perspective and focus on Christ and in this case how to help those around us. You will be able to hear more about this on Youth Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to be there!

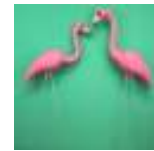
### March Calendar

- Youth Information Meeting – Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:45AM in High School Room – Want to know what is happening in the youth group? Come be informed.
- Youth Band/Drama Team – Sundays @ 5:00PM in Choir Room (Open to all 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders)
- Sunday Night Sanctuary – Sundays @ 6:30PM in Choir Room (Open to all 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders)
- No Youth Band or Sunday Night Sanctuary on 23<sup>rd</sup> – enjoy your family on Easter!
- The Breakfast Club – Tuesday's 6:30AM – all High School Juniors and Seniors – call or email Carrie for location as it is subject to change.
- Spring Break Activities – For those without plans for Spring Break, contact us at the office and we will let you know about our Spring Break Activities.



### Upcoming April Events

- Acquire the Fire – April 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> in Fresno – Limited Tickets - \$50/each – Contact Carrie for more information – Scholarships and Payment Plans available. This is a MUST ATTEND!!!



- Flamingo Fundraiser (March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 11<sup>th</sup>) – Volunteers needed!!!
- April 13<sup>th</sup> – Youth Sunday – Dress Rehearsal is April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30AM

## “Laugh For Life”

Care Pregnancy Center is pleased to invite you to there 9th Annual

### “Laugh for Life”

Dinner & Comedy Show

Featuring

**Scott Wood**

Thursday Evening, April 24th, 2008

Scott's style of rapid fire one-liners has been keeping audiences rolling in the aisles for more than fifteen years!



Bennetts Ranch  
26801 Road 132, Visalia  
Doors open at 6:00PM  
Dinner at 6:30PM  
Sponsor a table of 8 for \$375 or  
Individual tickets are \$50 each  
Tables go on sale March 3, 2008  
RSVP by April 17 @ 4:00PM,  
seating is limited  
Call Alyce at 625-5550 or  
Brenda at 471-6143

## Vacation Bible School

**Enter an extraordinary city—  
during a miraculous time!  
June 23-27<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 9:00PM**

Why is it so miraculous? Because Jesus is alive! He's walking the streets, sharing God's love, and helping all to come into a deeper relationship with Him.

At Jerusalem Marketplace, everyone becomes a member of a tribe of Israel. Visit the Synagogue School where Rabbi Messinger is teaching, the Village Playground, and create Bible-times crafts at the Marketplace. Commotion fills the air as the daily drama spontane-

ously unfolds. And one thing is for sure, every day ends the same way it begins—with singing, dancing, and celebrating!

The whole family comes to the Marketplace and will be able to enjoy Bible-time fun together. Crafts. Games. Music. Costumes. Celebration. Daily Challenges, Surprises! Kids and adults smell, taste, touch, hear, and explore what it might have been like to live when Jesus did.

"It is amazing...the kids really understand the importance behind what they are experiencing. People are still talking about Holy Land

Adventure from last year. And they keep asking when will we do this again." You won't want to miss it.

Joyce Hogan, VBS Director



## Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed

*Coming to a theater near you  
on April 18, 2008*

**Who:** Ben Stein, in the new film  
**EXPULSED: No Intelligence Allowed**

**What:** His heroic and at times shocking journey confronting the world's top scientists, educators and

philosophers, regarding the persecution of the many by an elite few.

**Where:** Ben travels the world on his quest, and learns an awe-inspiring truth...that bewilders him, then angers him...and then spurs him to action!

**Why:** Ben realizes that he has been

"Expelled," and that educators and scientists are being ridiculed, denied tenure and even fired – for the "crime" of merely believing that there might be evidence of "design" in nature, and that perhaps life is not just the result of accidental, random chance.

## Mayor's Prayer Breakfast 2008

**Thursday  
May 1, 2008  
7:00 AM**

**Visalia Convention Center  
Seats: \$35.00**

**Tickets available at:  
www.gorillatix.com  
1-888-388-1288**

The popular Mayor's Prayer Breakfast returns to Visalia once again. This year will feature NBA Iron Man, A.C. Green.

A.C. Green celebrated his 1,000th consecutive game in 1999, winning three championships with the Lakers, and playing for the Suns, Mavericks and the Heat. In 1989 Mr. Green established the A.C. Green Youth Foun-

dation with the main focus on sexual abstinence education. Today Mr. Green's mission is to help young people build self-esteem and character, and learn moral and ethical principles which will help them make responsible decisions. Mr. Green is a mentor, speaker and successful businessman the youth across America can respect.

## FCC Figures

February Attendance	
Feb. 3.....	114
Feb. 10.....	111
Feb. 17.....	122
Feb. 24.....	121

February Giving	
Feb. 3.....	\$6,278.14
Feb. 10.....	\$2,881.76
Feb. 17.....	\$5,019.36
Feb. 24.....	\$2,366.25

March Attendance	
Mar 2.....	96
Mar 10.....	118
March Giving	
Mar 2.....	\$6,194.90
Mar 10.....	\$3,058.29

## March Birthdays

Jenna Glick ..... 1	Susanne Lewis ..... 12	Holly Evans ..... 20
Angela Gallo ..... 2	Andrea Martinez ..... 12	Jessie Keller ..... 21
Cayla Gunning ..... 4	Steve Ritter ..... 12	Catie Sheaff ..... 21
Dan Hogan ..... 10	Sydney Gorman ..... 15	Shirley Williams ..... 23
Jamie Maupin ..... 11	Matthew Stevens ..... 16	Noah Gallo ..... 26

## March Anniversaries

Dick & Gigi Shacklett ..... 10	Dave & Sabrina Barber ..... 18	Ed & Barbara Grant ..... 25
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## April Birthdays

Dave Barber ..... 1	Morgan Friday ..... 9	Arnold Bustos ..... 20
Eli Grant ..... 1	Susan Leary ..... 9	Taylor Parker ..... 20
Tami Tharp ..... 1	Jenny Rodriguez ..... 9	Sheila Ronk ..... 20
Whitney Stoner ..... 2	Sam Rodriguez ..... 9	Dawltyn Stowers ..... 21
Matthew Horn ..... 3	Anna Comstock ..... 11	Deirdre Lewis ..... 22
Kameron Kirtland ..... 3	Eric Ritter ..... 11	Ryen Ruiz ..... 24
Joshua Gallo ..... 6	Ryan Ritter ..... 16	Tim Sanchez ..... 24
Tom Lewis ..... 8	Imalee Crumal ..... 19	Ryleigh Stowers ..... 27
Kevin Turl ..... 8	Audra Frey ..... 19	MaKenzee Stowers ..... 28

## April Anniversaries

Larry & Deirdre Lewis ..... 2
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## New Baby!

**Logan Roger Ritter**  
Born - February 16, 2008  
7 lbs 9 oz - 19.5 inches

Proud Parents:  
Ryan & Heather Ritter  
“Big” Sister: Leila

Grandparents:  
Steve & Sue Ritter

## March & April Ministers

<i>March Ministers</i>		<i>April Ministers</i>		<i>Drivers</i>
Deacons	Elders	Deacons	Elders	
Kevin Guy	March 2 Stan Livesay	Ann Johnson	April 6 Ann Johnson	If you need a ride to church during the months of March or April please call one of the people listed below: Tami Tharp ..... 592-1406 Betty Baker ..... 734-2806 Wanda Sharp ..... 732-0836
Joel Glick	Tami Tharp	Roger Johnson	Roger Johnson	
Michelle Glick	March 9 June Glick	Wayne Geis	April 13 Tom Lewis	
Tim Glick	Buz Southard	Sue Geis	Kerrell Lewis	
Beth Messinger	March 16 Beth Messinger	Barbara Grant	April 20 Judy Jameson	
Wanda Sharp	Mike Messinger	JoAnne Jordan	Connor Jameson	
Erin Sheaff	March 23 Pat Hogan	Kelli Stowers	April 27 Richard Shacklett	
Kevin Turl	Joyce Hogan	Tami Tharp	Gigi Shacklett	
George Williams	March 30 Keith Moore	Morrie Trent		
	Marcia Moore			



1023 N. Chinowth St.  
 Visalia, CA 93291-4114  
 Phone: (559) 732-6623  
 FAX: (559) 732-6625

Website: [www.fccvisalia.org](http://www.fccvisalia.org)

*Biblically Based  
 Christ Centered  
 Spirit Led*

**Office Hours:**

Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

**Staff E-Mail Addresses:**

- Michael Messinger, Senior Pastor**  
pastor@fccvisalia.org
- Joyce Hogan, Pastor's Assistant**  
pa@fccvisalia.org
- Carrie Guy, Youth Pastor**  
youth@fccvisalia.org
- Will Shattuck, Music Director**  
music@fccvisalia.org
- Sheila Ronk, Church Secretary**  
sec@fccvisalia.org

If you have questions contact Carrie or Joyce at the Church Office — 732-6623

# Kingdom Kids News

Where a kid can be God's kid!



Parents - Have you received our ParentLink Newsletter? This is a great resource available to you with information about what is going on with your kids, our culture, and parenting tips. We also include our monthly calendar so you can know when your child sings in church, gets awards, or has the Kingdom Kids Store. If you have email, send an email to Carrie requesting the latest ParentLink Newsletter, or call the office so we can mail it to you.

Kingdom Kids Programs:

- Sunday School—9 am Sunday Mornings
- Jesus Street—During Church Service (10:15 am Sundays)
- AWANA—Wednesday's 6-8pm



The AWANA kids are singing Easter Sunday!! They will need to be at the church at 8:45am. Come see your kids sing at 10:15am, come early to get a seat.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Christian Church  
 1023 N. Chinowth Street  
 Visalia, CA 93291-4114