

The Oakland Church of Christ
The FOCUS

November 2009

...keeping our focus on Jesus Christ and our Mission:
to honor God by making more devoted followers of Jesus Christ!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

31 Harvest Carnival (see p.3)

31 - Grove Camp cleanup day (see p.5)

November

1 – Timeless Treasure (senior adult potluck)

7 – All Church cleanup day inside and out (see p.4)

9 – Prayer and Fasting Day for minister search and its committee (see p.3)

13-14 – Teen Girls Revolve Tour

14 – Ladies' Breakfast Club 10 a.m. at Beidler's

22 – Church Thanksgiving dinner (see p.3)

26 – Thanksgiving - office closed

27 – Church office closed

28 – Ladies' Breakfast Club 10 a.m. at Beidler's

2010 Census to Begin

Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U. S. Census.

Story at a Glance

If a Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, handheld device, Census Bureau canvas bag and confidentiality notice.

- Census workers do not need to go into your home
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information
- Do not give your Social Security Number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U. S. Census
- Census workers will not contact you by e-mail, so be on the lookout for e-mail scams impersonating the Census

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit www.BBB.org



Meet your new
Interim Pastor
...**David Van Wormer**

Greetings. My name is David Van Wormer and I've been following Jesus Christ since I was eight years old, and pastoring Christian Churches since 1981. I live with my wife Marty and two daughters, Abby & Emmy in Springfield, OR.

My life officially got underway on June 9, 1957, a Sunday morning, when I was born to Ruth and Jim Van Wormer in San Jose (CA). My dad preached in Christian Churches for over 40 years. He was attending San Jose Bible College at the time. From there we moved to San Bernardino (CA) upon the death of my grandmother to take up residence in her home, at which point my dad continued his education at Pacific Bible Seminary, where he would take classes with my future father-in-law, **Harvey Beard. Upon my dad's graduation in 1961 we would soon move to Rockwell City (IA) where he began his first fulltime ministry. This is where I began kindergarten. We next moved to Bucklin City (KS) in 1963 where my dad preached at First Christian Church. This is where I began piano lessons and singing solos and duets accompanied by my mother in church and at various revivals in the area. In 1965 my dad became aware of an opportunity to serve at a new church plant in a growing area of Phoenix, AZ, and was soon the minister of Northwest Christian Church where I lived till 1971. I was baptized here at eight years old just prior to my ninth birthday. While there I continued to sing in church and in the Phoenix Boy's Choir. I also began to play the violin and eventually transitioned to the upright Bass and guitar. I mowed lawns and picked tomatoes for spending money. We then moved to Placentia (CA) and after a short time we moved again to Escondido (CA) where my dad served as the associate pastor of First Christian Church. I attended my last three years of high school here, playing football and basketball, as well as performing in several music groups and leading roles in various school musicals. I also worked at a carwash in town.**

Upon graduation from Orange Glen High School I next began studies at Pacific Christian College in Fullerton (CA), where I sang with various music groups, and directed a group in my third



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Dan & Catherine Corsaro

year representing the college in California, Arizona, Washington and New Mexico. I also worked in the school cafeteria and as a retail clerk at Lighthouse Christian Store. I majored in Vocal Performance and Biblical Studies while at Pacific Christian College from 1975 till 1979. I next transferred to Northwest Christian College where I graduated after one year with a BA in Music and Pastoral Ministries. While attending NCC, I worked several jobs and directed the Choir at First Christian Church in Junction City (OR).

After graduation in June of 1980 I was blessed to marry Martha Beard, the accompanist for my senior recital, on July 26, 1980 at Parkcrest Christian Church in Long Beach (CA). After our wedding and honeymoon we traveled to Johnson City (TN) in August of 1980 to begin seminary at Emmanuel School of Religion. After nine months in seminary I began my first ministry in Saltville (VA) where I would serve till 1986. I graduated with a Master of Divinity and a major in New Testament with my thesis on the book of Revelation. My first ministry after seminary was in Ventura (CA) beginning in 1986, followed by ministries in Gridley (CA) in 1989, Portland (OR) in 1992, Olympia (WA) in 1997 and Springfield (OR) in 2005. In 2007 I began a Doctor of Ministry program at George Fox Evangelical Seminary, but have taken a leave of absence due to a lack of finances.

Our daughter, Abigail, was born in Virginia in 1982, graduated from Hope International University in 2004 with a BA in communications, and now works as a marketing specialist at Harvest House Publishers, a Christian publishing house in Eugene (OR). Our second daughter, Emilie, was born in Virginia in 1985 and graduated with her AA from South Puget Sound Community College in 2005. She now volunteers at a local hospital and is looking for work.

My wife Martha has worked many different jobs through the years, substitute teaching as well as marketing/sales and retail. **She received her Master's In Teaching degree in 2003 from City University, Tacoma (WA) and has since been teaching music. She currently teaches elementary music at Bertha Holt Elementary School in Eugene (OR). Martha has also been involved in the churches we've served, playing the piano and serving in children's ministry.**

As you can see, change and transitions have occurred frequently throughout my life. But the one constant has always been my growing relationship with the Triune God. He has blessed me with a wonderful family and the privilege of proclaiming His Word for many years. He has brought wonderful people into my life and He has allowed me to serve His Church. I look forward to serving at Oakland Church of **Christ for however long I'm needed. I think the primary contribution I can bring at this time is steady, Biblical preaching. I look forward to working with the elders and other leaders as they see fit. Thank you for your prayers as I preach and for your many good words of encouragement to me and my family.**

Four years ago, Dan, Catherine and their son, Sam, moved to Oakland. They had been living in Colorado, but due to **Catherine's health they needed a lower elevation. They did not want to move to the desert or to California.** Catherine had an aunt that lived in Oregon who she visited when she was younger. About a year before they moved here, they came to **"scout" the area. They had heard of Cottage Grove so they checked it out. It was bigger than they wanted. They then headed down the freeway. They liked the town of Drain and its area and met the minister's wife there. Next, they continued south and visited Oakland (to see the antiques) and visited the church here. About a year later, when they retired, they returned to Drain. Finding nothing for sale there they drove to Oakland, found a place, bought it, placed a mobile home on it, and moved in. Dan said they fell in love with Oregon and the Oakland area.**

Dan was born in North Tonawanda, NY. The family lived a few years in Niagara Falls when he was young and then they moved back to North Tonawanda when he was five. After graduating from high school he went into the Army for three years, two of which were spent in Germany. He traveled twice to Italy during this time to visit family.

After the Army he moved to CA and went to school for three years at Pasadena Playhouse of Performing Arts. He stayed in the area working as a stagehand for the union for 5-6 years. During that time he married and moved to Valencia. They lived there about three years, moved for one month to New York, and then back to California. He went to work again for the union and worked there for 18 years. His marriage ended during this time, but their son, Eric, went on to later to bless him with his granddaughter Aiyanna who comes to visit them each summer.

Dan has an older sister and two younger brothers. His parents passed away at 94 and 92 years of age.

Catherine was born in Phoenix, AZ in the only hospital in the area. Interestingly, her mom had the same room and same bed with her that she had with her brother when he was born. Her dad was with the border patrol and they lived in Brawley. When Catherine was in elementary school they moved to southern California. She has one older and one younger brother. Both of her parents have since passed away.

Catherine had three sons by her first husband. After her second marriage she prayed that God would choose her next husband, since she felt she had not done a good job. Along came Dan. Catherine has five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Catherine attended Long Beach Community College and became a respiratory therapist for about a year, but did not **enjoy it. Off and on she worked in doctors' offices, not really enjoying the jobs. Most of her time she was homemaker and mother, busy raising her family.**

Dan and Catherine, after having met at a Halloween party at a Catholic Church through a mutual friend and dating, were married 28 years ago at Huntington Beach, CA in a funeral parlor chapel (*since they bought flowers they were allowed to use its chapel*). Checking it out about a week before, though, where a casket for a funeral service was there, Catherine was a bit skeptical about using it. But they did, having a potluck before the wedding and then having the cake afterwards. Since Catherine is diabetic their wedding cake was a big layered Jello one with sugar-free topping.

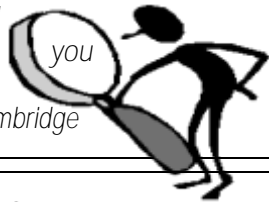
They lived in the Huntington Beach area for 4-5 years then moved to CO in 1985, where they lived till they moved to Oakland.

During their time in CO they adopted their son, Sam, at the age of six. When he was about a year old he had been adopted from Vietnam by a single mom. The mom brought Sam into the **doctor's office where Catherine worked and she fell in love with him**. She did not see him again till he was about six years old. About a year before they adopted Sam they had tried to adopt a child from Romania, unsuccessfully. God worked it out so they were available when Sam needed them.

Dan feels this church is where God wants them to be. Catherine **says if you find a church family you're happy with, then stick with them through thick and thin.**

Did you know they have lots of fun stories about camping that **they'd be glad to share? Like when they heated rocks to warm their sleeping bags and discovered that the rocks were so hot they burned the towels they had wrapped them in.**

Beware (or.. be aware) – when I ask if I can come over and visit , you may be in the next Spotlight !
...by Janet Baimbridge



Prayer and Fasting

One Monday a month (Nov. 9th this month) the pastor selection committee and elders are asking for a united front in prayer and fasting for the congregation's man whom God has in mind to fill our pulpit. This has neither been an easy time nor a speedy process. We understand your frustrations and concerns, as we struggle with them also .

We have been thankful for the interims who have filled our pulpit throughout this time, and we feel very blessed to have David Van Wormer, from Springfield, step in to help us as we allow Keith Jaroslow to go to his family and new church plant on a full-time basis.

God bless us...one and all.

Harvest Carnival

Halloween is on Saturday this year and we have planned an alternative to the trick or treating with a farm-theme party here at the church with farm decorations, game booths, and lots of candy. This carnival is geared for preschool-6th grade children. There is no admission cost and we ask that costumes be **"non-scary" (thinking in terms of young children)**. Also know that having a costume to wear is not necessary to attend. So...1) invite and bring children (*preschool – 6th graders*); 2) bring large bags of candy; and 3) help with setup and takedown. Contact the church office if you would like to help in any way.

- When: Oct. 31, 2009 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Where: Fellowship Hall
- Who: Everyone is welcome – bring your friends!

Girlfriends

Girlfriends is for all ladies of the church who are 18 years of age and older. They meet the last Friday evening of the month in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

In October they had a masquerade party (*where they actually invited the men!!!*). Please note: that for the months of November and December they will not be meeting. However, in December they are planning to get together to fill the treat sacks for the Christmas Eve service.

Watch your bulletin for times and places, and contact Catherine Corsaro or Amy Yard if you have any questions.

Thanksgiving Dinner!!!

Instead of Linger Longer after worship service on Sunday November 22, plan to attend this Thanksgiving meal open to all church members and friends.

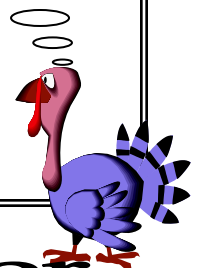
Sign up to bring food (extra if you plan on bringing, friends...we don't want people leaving hungry.)

When you come, please keep in mind those who may be going without and bring items for the food baskets being prepared to share for Thanksgiving.

Signup sheets are available on a table in the Fellowship Hall for the meal and for the giving baskets.



Ummm...I'm thinking I'd rather **receive** than give.



**It is better
to give
than receive**

Understanding the Purpose for Baptism
...taken from the "Restoration Herald" September 2009
...written by Brian Giese

Years ago, my wife, Sylvia, was sitting with a group of ministers from various denominations. Somehow, the subject of the purpose for baptism came up. One pastor said, "We baptize as a public testimony that you are saved." Another said, "We baptize for the purpose of church membership." A third remarked, "I'm not really sure why we baptize." At this point, Sylvia could stay quiet no longer and interjected, "We baptize because the Bible commands it."

It is true that the Bible commands baptism. In fact, baptism is the first command of the New Covenant with a promise attached to it. The first command of the Old Covenant with a promise was the fifth of the Ten commandments - "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2). The first New Covenant command with a promise is, "Repent and be baptized, everyone one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38)

That verse sounds clear to me as to the purpose for baptism. Then why is there still so much confusion on this subject? Please allow me to suggest just four possible reasons why the baptismal waters get "muddied."

1) Misinterpreting Personal Experience - Many people testify that their lives were changed when they put their trust in Christ, even though they were not baptized until sometime later. I have no quarrel with that. However, we must recognize that there is a difference between conversion and forgiveness. Conversion takes place in the heart of the sinner, while forgiveness takes place in the heart of God. When people put their faith in Christ and repent of their sins, they have a new attitude toward God. That is conversion. But when they confess their faith and are baptized, they have a new standing before God, because they are forgiven (See Acts 22:16; I Peter 3:21). We must not judge Bible doctrines like baptism by our experience. We ought to judge our experiences by what the Bible teaches.

2) Single-verse Theology - Another reason for the confusion about baptism's purpose is because salvation scriptures are often pulled out of context. People approach the Bible with their minds already made up, and they pull out only those verses which support their bias.

For example, someone quotes John 3:16 where Jesus says, "...whoever believes in me will not perish, but will have eternal life." Then they say, "See all you need to do is believe in Christ." That is true, but you need to study the rest of the New Testament to learn what it means to believe in Christ. A very important principle of hermeneutics (how to interpret the Bible) is that each scripture must be understood in the light of all other



Church cleanup work day:

November 7th will be a church cleanup day... inside and out, and we need both adults and youth to help accomplish this activity.

• **Beth Hart** is in charge of the jobs for those who want to work inside the church building.



• **Janice Cox** will have jobs for those who would like to help with weeding and cleaning our flower beds. Bring trimmers, hand shovels, etc.

• **Mark Kopp** will need help cleaning gutters, and trimming trees.



Start time: 8:00 a.m.

Finish time: 12:00 noon (or later if you have time)

As you can see, there is a wide variety of jobs to be accomplished. Something for everyone. Set this date aside and plan to come and help.

scripture. Thus, when you study the New Testament, you find that believing in Christ includes such things as repenting of your sins, confessing your faith, and being buried with Christ in the watery grave of baptism.

3) Confusion About Works Salvation - A common mistake here is that people confuse works of the law which merit salvation with works which demonstrate saving faith. Baptism is not a meritorious work it is an act of faith unto salvation.

God, in His grace, has given us a historic time and place when we know we enter into salvation. That time and place is baptism of a repentant believer.

People also make a mistake when they separate faith from works. As a matter of fact, Jesus said that the greatest work God requires is faith itself (John 6:28-29). Jesus also taught in Luke 7:29-30 that baptism is one of the most fundamental evidences of faith. Acts 5:32 teaches that God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. Baptism is one of the acts of obedience which imparts the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; John 3:5; Titus 3:5).

4) Concern For the Pious Un-immersed - What about godly people who have been baptized the wrong way or for the wrong reason, or who have not been baptized at all? As we consider this matter, we must realize that God does not "paint himself into a corner" when it comes to baptism. There are two extreme statements about baptism which are not found in the New Testament, and we should not make either of these statements ourselves. One is, "You cannot be saved without being baptized." The other is "You can be saved without being baptized." Neither of those statements is biblical.



This does not mean that baptism is optional. As we have seen, baptism is still a command that is connected with salvation, the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. However, God may make exceptions about his rules on baptism, and I hope He does. The rule is that in the New Testament baptism is a part of becoming a Christian. For example, every conversion account in the book of Acts concludes with the new believer in Christ being baptized.

Those who argue that baptism is not essential for salvation will often point to exceptional cases like the thief on the cross. But we must not forget an important axiom often used by one of my old English teachers, "The exceptions do not negate the rule, they prove the rule."

In other words, the very fact that God could make an exception proves that there is a general rule in the first place. That rule, Biblically, is that baptism is one of the things we must do to get into Christ. (Romans 6:3, I Corinthians 1:13; Galatians 3:27).

Conclusion - We must admit that baptism can be over-emphasized. We may say too much about baptism and too little about the need for daily faith, confession, and repentance. After all, baptism is a one-time act. But the most challenging thing about being a disciple is repentance - to die to self and live for Christ (Acts 26: 20; Galatians 2:20). This is something we need to do every day for the rest of our lives. Before people are baptized, they need to understand the commitment they are making.

On the other hand, while it is possible to talk too much about baptism, it seems that most evangelicals under-emphasize this command. Many have replaced baptism with the "sinner's prayer" as the main step to accepting Christ. Also, in most evangelical churches, there is not sense of urgency about getting people baptized as soon as possible, which was the practice in the New Testament Church.

Although many have marginalized baptism, the Great Commission still stands, "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Do you notice something unique in that statement? So far as I can tell, baptism is the only command in the entire Bible that is accompanied by the name of all three members of the Trinity. Baptism is important to the Lord, and it ought to be important to us.

...submitted by Richard Carter

Grove Camp News!!!

We are having our fall work day on October 31, 2009 to help put away things, and winterize the camp. We have lots of projects to do, varying from all levels of difficulty. We have jobs for men, women, and children. Please encourage people in your churches to come and help out for the morning!!! Bring tools please.

(...Grove Camp cont.)

www.oaklandcc.net

Thank You for Keeping the Nursery

Mama left me in the church nursery.
She said, "You can stay here and play."

I was very afraid, but you comforted me,
And Mama found Christ that day.

At least once a month in the nursery,
You served God by caring for me

So Mama could attend church and learn to make
Our home everything it should be.

There were those who said, "I'm too busy,"
Or, "I don't want to miss church today;

I'm too young; I'm too old; I've done my part –
The nursery? Please, don't ask me to stay."

But you said, "No, I'm not too busy.
I'm just the right age I know.

I could never do enough for the King that I serve.
When you need me in the nursery I'll go."

My life might have been so different
If you had not answered God's plea

For workers to serve where the need is so great,
To care for little people like me.

Thank you for keeping the nursery.
Mama taught me to follow Christ, too.

Many people had a part, but the most special one
To me will always be you.

- Work Day Starts: 8:00-8:30 AM.
- Work Day Ends: 2:00-2:30 PM. Or whenever you have to leave.
- Cinnamon Rolls and drinks provided in the morning.
- Lunch provided at 12:30 PM.

Some things to be done: Filling the wood shed, cutting up logs into firewood, putting away picnic tables, fall cleaning, gutter cleaning, brush pick-up, burning, wash shower curtains and cabin curtains, wash windows, help organize resource room, and so much more...

Things you could bring: Tractors (Call us first so we can line out a job for your equipment,) rakes, shovels, wood splitter, mauls, chain saws, fuel for your equipment (we will have some available,) gloves, boots or work shoes, warm clothes, maybe rain gear, buckets, ladders, and whatever else you have to offer...

Please let us know who you have coming if possible, so we can make sure to have enough food for everyone! Call: 541-946-1662 or Joel @ 541-946-2059 Email: grovecamp@aol.com



November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>SS for all ages 8:45 worship service 10:00 w/nursery and children's church Linger Longer</i> ↓	Elder's Mtg. 7:00 p.m. ↓	Men's prayer group 8:00 a.m. ↓	Share-A-Meal 6:15 p.m. Classes Age 2-Adult 7 p.m. ↓	Worship Practice 7 p.m. ↓	Men's brkfst Apple Peddler 6:30 a.m. ↓	Oct 31 Grove Camp cleanup 8 a.m. Harvest Carnival 5-7 p.m.
1 Timeless Treasures potluck	2	3	4	5	6	7 All-church clean-up day 8 a.m.-12 noon
8	9 Prayer & Fasting Day	10	11	12	13	14 Women's Breakfast-Club Bible Study 10 a.m. Teen Girls' Revolve Tour
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Church Thanksgiving dinner	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day <i>Office closed</i>	27 <i>Office closed</i>	28 Women's Breakfast-Club Bible Study 10 a.m.
29	30	Please remember to bring in food for the giving baskets for Thanksgiving. Share the bounty God has blessed you with to help someone out.				

STATS...

Month of...September

Average Worship Attendance	104
Average Sun School Attendance	42
Average Wed Night Attendance	73
Income Offerings	\$ 10,658.35
General Fund Expenses	\$ 15,459.42
Budget for September	\$ 17,625.24

In everything give thanks!

OCC Weekly Schedule

Sunday

see H.O.M.E. Groups in next column

Monday

7:00 p.m. - **Elders' meeting.**

Tuesday

see H.O.M.E. Groups in next column

8:00 a.m. - **Men's Prayer Group.** Meets at
Oakland Deli. Open to all church and
community men.

Wednesday

6:15 p.m. - **Share A Meal** at the church
(Children 6th grade and under **MUST** be
accompanied by an adult to be a part of
Share-A-Meal)

7:00 p.m. - **Bible Study** for ages 2 - adults

Thursday

see H.O.M..E. Groups in next column

9:00 a.m.- **Women's Prayer Group**

Vicki Smith's home (contact Vicki Smith
459-3914) - canceled for Thanksgiving Day

7:00 p.m. - **Worship Practice** - contact Carol
Block for info. - canceled for Thanksgiving Day

Friday

6:30 a.m. - **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study**
@ Apple Peddler - info: 459-4447

Saturday

see H.O.M..E. Groups in next column

HO.M.E. Groups

John and Jan Silva in charge of small groups

**"Develop, Nurture, and Protect our relationship with
God and people!"**

listed by area

OAKLAND

- **Eric Lanning** at *Humphreys'* - **Sunday @ 6:00 p.m.**
216 SE 7th St. 459-8433
Living the Transformed Life
- **Steve Baimbridge** at OCC - **Sunday @ 6:00 p.m.**
1400 NE Oak St. 459-4677
study of New Testament
(childcare provided)
- **Scott Langkamp** at *Brown's* - **Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.**
411 SE Pear St. 459-3807
study of Matthew

SUTHERLIN

- **Richard Carter/Dave Weldon** - **Sunday @ 6:00 p.m.**
2650 Greyfox Drive/2270 Eagle Loop 459-1634
(alternating homes and leaders in Sutherlin)
"Cast of Characters" by Max Lucado
- **Don & Carol Block** - **Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.**
2703 Golfview Ave. Sutherlin 673-6583
- **Myrleen Christensen** - **Thursday @ 10:00 a.m.**
1030 Foster Ave. Sutherlin 459-3914
Ladies' Bible Study (home of Vicki Smith)
...canceled for Thanksgiving Day...
study of Isaiah
- **Linda Weldon** - **2nd/4th Saturdays @ 10:00 a.m.**
728 Sandpiper Ct. Sutherlin 459-9599
Ladies' Bible Breakfast Club (home of Gloria Beidler)
"Gifts of the Holy Spirit"

*For more information on our H.O.M.E. groups
please contact the church office
459-4447*

May your Thanksgiving be filled with giving thanks.