

# Capital Connections

FEBRUARY 2012

Edition 114C Printed 1/25/2012

## **Our Small Group...**

...has just concluded its second session in this first season of Small Group Meetings for 2012. We are enjoying the study of Henry Blackaby's "Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God." This is the fourth time that I have been on the pilgrimage in the last 23 years, and it is a pilgrimage.

Did you know that each year a hundred thousand pilgrims make their way by foot along the Camino de Santiago? Their journey begins in one of several different Spanish or French villages, ultimately concluding in Santiago de Compostela in Northwestern Spain where they worship at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, purportedly the final resting place of the bones of the Apostle James.

Along the Camino (the Way), they interact with other pilgrims as each makes his/her way to the same destination. More importantly, they are brought face to face with their own questions of faith and, according to many, have an encounter with God that is both "real and personal."

I admire such dedication. Though I've never been on such a pilgrimage, regarding "Experiencing God", I can say to you that it is a real journey of discovery. It requires a bit of dedication that will pay dividends each step of the way.

Pilgrims on this Small Group Journey are discovering in a fresh, new way that God is engaged in all kinds of important activity at every turn and that He is waiting for them to adjust their lives, so that they can join Him in His work. You can join Him also, if you choose to do so. When you adjust your life to accommodate the activity of God and join Him in His work, you discover that He accomplishes His work through you. Simply obey Him, moment by moment, and the outcome will be a work of wonder in your personal experience.

Pastor Steve and I will continue to speak to you upon these wonderful, simple themes of the Christian Faith, culminating our pilgrimage on April 15<sup>th</sup> with "Experiencing God: the Musical," led by Bobby Watkins. This will be a truly marvelous end to our journey together.

We hope that you are praying and engaging with us as we walk together on this wonderful path of renewal.

I want to thank each Small Group Facilitator for their willingness to make this pilgrimage together with their Small Group Members. I know that you are already experiencing the joy that our Small Group has experienced. Thank you Tony, Tina, Sherry, Bryan, Jan, Steve, Cliff and Maxine.

Celebrating Fellowship through Small Groups... Pastor John

oea



*oman: a pilot who flies behind and outside the leader of a flying formation*

I've got a couple of dead battery stories to tell you. One of the vehicles we drive is a 1982 Bronco that roars like a lion as it starts up and purrs like a mid-sized cougar once it settles to a comfortable idle. (With my level of affection for the feline, that's as close as I'll ever get to a cat analogy, although my cousin's husband tells the hilarious story of learning to control a remote control helicopter while the cat was sitting on my cousin's lap.) Oh, yeah, the Bronco!

During our recent cold spell, the motor was started each day and driven about a mile. With freezing temperatures, much strain is placed on a car battery and the short distance didn't give the alternator enough time to recover the battery to full strength, so over a period of about 4 days, the battery decided to speak to me about it. If you're familiar with the sound of an old solenoid, (starter switch) it sounds something like, "buzz off!" The bottom line is there is just not enough juice left in the battery to start the engine one more time. So, after a good healthy jump start, I drove the Bronco around town on several errands, leaving it running every time I stopped and gave it a good hour and a half of charging time. Again, the old lion roars!

Our prayer life as Christians is a bit like this. If we muster up a prayer periodically without lingering in the presence of God, resting there and listening, we find ourselves used up and without power for daily living. The twelve disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray and He shared with them the model which we call the Lord's Prayer. The best lessons Jesus taught on prayer, however, were by example. Spending time with the Father was a way of life for Jesus. The Gospels reveal that He depended heavily on times of prayer, rising early in the morning to go to the mountain, stealing away after times of intense ministry, and pleading with the Father just prior to his arrest, suffering, and death. To be part of God's work it is imperative that we be charged with power through prayer.

Now for the 2<sup>nd</sup> story. Like most people diagnosed with diabetes, I have a blood sugar monitor. On a regular basis I prick my finger and test a drop of blood to confirm that my daily medications are keeping my numbers at or near what is considered a "safe" level. A few days ago, my daughter asked if I had checked my blood sugar lately. I said it had been about a month because the battery in my monitor was dead. For the diabetic that is insulin dependent, a blood sugar monitor is a critical tool to evaluate and determine the proper dose that will keep them in a stable condition. If blood sugar numbers remain high, internal organs are damaged and life expectancy is significantly shortened. If those same numbers drop too low, the person is at risk of fainting and even slipping into a coma. As you can see, purposeful monitoring is important. We need that information.

In order for you and me to have the information we need to participate in God's work, it is absolutely necessary for us to listen to Him. One **Experiencing God** lesson you will be learning in your small group is that God the Holy Spirit speaks to us in several ways to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways. Through **prayer**, we experience "two-way" communication with God. Once we stop talking and start listening, we're able to shift our focus away from ourselves and tune in to what God's will is.

Let's be diligent in prayer by lingering in God's presence so we'll know His power (ROAR), and by listening to His voice so we'll know and do His will (Purrrrrrr). And by the way, I'm listening again. I bought a battery this morning for my monitor!

## Sunday School at Capital

Where God's Word is taught to all ages  
By Linda Warberg, Sunday School Director

Department Meetings for 2012 are listed below. All meetings will be in the conference room unless otherwise arranged.

**February 3, 2012 – Children; 7:00**

March 4, 2012 – Adults; 4:00

**April 13, 2012 – Children; 7:00 – NOTE DATE CHANGE!**

May 12, 2012 – Youth; 12:00 at the Warberg's

June 3, 2012 – Preschool; 4:00

September 9, 2012 – Adults; 4:00

October 19, 2012 – Children; 7:00

November 4, 2012 – Youth; 12:00 at the Warberg's

**\*\*\*High Attendance Sunday\*\*\***

It's coming! High attendance Sunday for all Sunday School classes will be April 1<sup>st</sup>! We will be "soaring to new heights" as we take flight to reach our goals. I have been asked the question, "What is High Attendance Sunday?" and "What do we do?"

High Attendance Sunday is an outreach activity to bring all adults, youth and children that are on our Sunday School rolls to Sunday School on a particular Sunday. Each class sets a goal for highest percent of enrollment in attendance and most visitors. From that Sunday, the Sunday School classes make contacts with those that come using their visitation plan processes.

Plans are in the works to celebrate everyone coming and presenting class awards at a meal after the second service. Others plans that are in the works are just too good to share now, but they promise to be exciting!

So, for now, everyone who is reading this newsletter, mark your calendars for April 1<sup>st</sup> and be here at Capital for High Attendance Sunday!



**Notes from the Long Range Planning Committee**

--by Sara Ricketts

The LRPC resumed meeting after a holiday break. The first order of business was electing a Chairperson. Patrice Dunnigan was nominated and accepted.

Our January discussion has centered around 'Branding.' What does 'branding' look like for our church? What is our 'brand?' Who do we put this 'brand' out to? Discussion revealed that Capital is a friendly church, who loves each other and wants others to enjoy our church as well. Our 'brand' was also discussed as our promise. What promises can we make? What can people expect from us? In using our brand or our promise, we want to be able to put ourselves out there in the public eye and have people understand what we're all about here at Capital.

We brainstormed different promises, some are: We will teach the Bible, we will qualify people to serve and we will help people find their spiritual gifts. From these promises, we came up with a 'spirit' statement: "We will foster an environment for spiritual growth at Capital Baptist Church." We are still discussing what this means and the promises behind it.

Again, if you have any questions, concerns or comments feel free to contact one of us. We would also welcome prayer for the committee members and following God's direction for our church. More next month!

Your LRPC – Patrice Dunnigan, Harvey Johnson, Sara Ricketts, Rob Tavares, Erika Pierson, Matthew Shockey and Linda Warberg

**DEAFENING SEIGE**

--by Tina Brown

Last week in Yachats we went to bed with windows rattling, roof chattering, walls moaning... Coastal storms are intense expressions of power. Unlike a steady

shower of rain, it splatters against buildings in angry bursts, and the wind punches every surface. With all these scary noises, I felt surprised that when Isaac went to bed, he hardly noticed the drama.

By the time us grownups hit the sack, all the rattles and splatters became a lulling white noise. We had resolved that since the house survived 109 mile winds earlier in the week, we could stop holding our breath. And we fell asleep, trusting that the nails would hold for one more night.

Hours later, everything stilled. It was so quiet it woke me up. Without the howling, without the pummeling, without the house shaking, the smallest creak and thump set my imagination running. Without the barrage of noise, every little sound blared with creepy amplification.

Naturally, I had to think of the story of Jesus calming the storm at sea. There He is, taking a nice little nap while all the disciples -- experienced fisherman -- feared for their lives amidst a furious gale. They woke Jesus up, accusing Him of not caring in such a dangerous moment. In Luke's gospel record, it says Jesus "rebuked" the waves while in Mark's account, He is quoted to have said "hush." (You can almost imagine He chided the weather like a harried parent: "Shhhhh... I'm trying to sleep, here!") Whatever words He used, the violence came to a standstill, and it seems to have frightened the disciples more than the previous danger.

The ensuing silence startled them.

Have you heard the phrase "Silence is deafening"? It's usually used to describe an audience who doesn't respond as expected. But in silence, you can hear the details. A lone rolling rock. Your jaw grinding. Each individual shift of the second hand.

Psalm 46:10 calls for us to "Cease striving... [be still] and know that I am God..." I usually think of this line in sleepy, calming terms -- a call to reflection and peaceful boat-rides through some bird-laden pond. But in context with the verses leading up to this line, God declares Himself as our stronghold in the midst of conflict. He's the God who can snap the things of war in two. He burns chariots and wipes out armies and melts the earth with His voice. If He wants to. This hardly fits with my picturesque images. It's more the eerie quiet of a desolated town -- after the bombs stop and the sirens stop and yelling stops and the sounds just stop...

The storm alarmed the disciples, but the ensuing silence startled them. I don't really know what to do with that, but now I know how it feels. Do I have the kind of courage that can face the stillness and weather the quiet? Can I walk through the ruins of some war-wrecked place and let it bring me to think about the God who is more fierce and more gentle?

I have to start listening.

## **Question of the Month**

--by Jan Landers

How pointless would it be to take a trip and afterwards not have any idea where you had been? Perhaps even worse, would be to leave home and have no idea where you were going. At the very least, you're wasting your time.

As 2011 came to an end and 2012 began, it seemed a good idea to see where we at Capital had been and where we might be going. These are a few more of the answers received in response to the questions emailed to members about what had been learned or blessings received in 2011, or what your prayer might be for 2012."

What about you? Did God bless you or teach you something in 2011? What are you praying for in 2012?

- Patrice Dunnigan, "That my service and life will glorify Him in someday."
- Donna Evanoff, "God has blessed me with health and family."
- Bryan Haws, "Although I am a patient person, God has been trying to teach how to be even more so and to be a better communicator."

## **THE LOVE OF GOD**

--by Doug Wilbur

*The love of God, how rich and pure, how measureless and strong;  
It shall forever more endure—the saints and angels song.*

Several years ago during a visit with my mother in California, I found myself standing in a doorway looking at my brother, John, thinking in my heart what a waste his life had been and how awful he looked.

Then in my heart I heard the Lord say, "Do you think I love him any less than I love you?" I knew the Lord was telling me to pray for John, so I began by suggesting in prayer my thoughts on the best way God could help John understand how much He loved him.

I didn't get very far when God stopped me with the question, "Do you love John?"

God showed me that I could only pray for John as I should if I loved him without any conditions. I was humbled and had to acknowledge I didn't love him that way, and asked God to forgive me and give me His kind of love for John. So now I can really pray for John effectually in love. Hallelujah!

## **IT'S THE LAW – GOD IS GOOD!**

--by Kay Dixon

My day was all planned out. I started Saturday, January 14, 2012 by finishing the food preparation for Junior Obadencio's memorial service. Charles and I loaded the Pontiac G6 with all the items needed to finish the food preparation at the church, and by 10:55, I was backing out our driveway. By 11:00 am I was upside down in a ditch. GOD IS GOOD! I walked away unharmed.

I was never an advocate for seat belts; after all, they wrinkle your clothes. My grandchildren, at very early ages, would remind me "It's the law, you got to buckle up". I buckled up. After all, I needed to set a good example. Today I thank a mercifully, loving God for seat belts. I probably would not have walked away from my accident without serious bodily harm. Mine might even have been another fatality accident without them.

If the laws of our land are for our protection, how much more is that true of God's laws? As a child of God we come to understand all of them were made for our protection and well being.

When I took my eyes off the road to attend to a casserole in the front seat, I immediately faced a critical situation. The same is true when a believer takes their eyes off God. Hopefully we are learning focus.

Reflecting on the accident, I can truly say I had an "Experiencing God" moment. God was so real to me at the scene. When people stopped to assist, they would say, "I can't believe you were not hurt." My reply was "GOD IS GOOD." I wasn't nervous or upset. I stayed calm, cool, and collected. My biggest concern was getting the food preparation done at the church. OK! Maybe I wasn't thinking too clearly! A Deputy Sheriff didn't think that was going to happen and suggested I not concern myself with getting to the church.

"What is crooked cannot be straightened and what is lacking cannot be counted." (Ecc.2:15 NASV) I cannot go back and undo what I have done but I can have a thankful heart. I am thankful for a loving God who teaches us through our circumstances. I am thankful for a loving church family who stepped up to the plate and took over my responsibilities that day. Thank you Pastor John, Elaine, and Jo Stell for your visit. Thank you church family, for your concern, phone calls, and prayers. You have demonstrated to me what it means to be a part of a group of believers who truly practice the love of Jesus. What a blessing you have been to me! GOOD IS SO GOOD!