

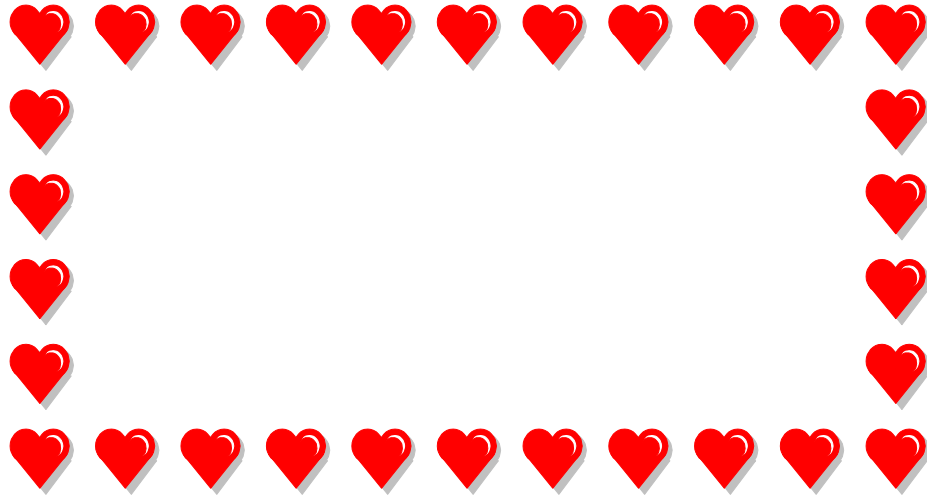


**Vineyard of Faith Ministry**  
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**February 2009**

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**February Events**

Feb. 2nd:

New Ladies' Monday Night Bible Study Starts

Feb. 5th:

New GriefShare Grief Recovery Support Group Starts

Feb. 11th:

DIVE Team- Valentine- Making

Feb. 25th: *Ash Wednesday*

Lenten Family Supper and Worship Service

## Ministry Support Team

Dave Anderson, Chairman

Rob Cordis

Ken Corriea

Dan Frische

Delores Hampton, Vice-Chairman

Jeanice Holtzer, Treasurer

Barbara Killean, Secretary

Larry Lefor

Renee Ortiz

### NEED TO CONTACT THE STAFF?

Church Office: (707) 837-8712



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-*Transition Pastor*

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-pastorted@vof.org

Ken Corriea

- *Music Director*

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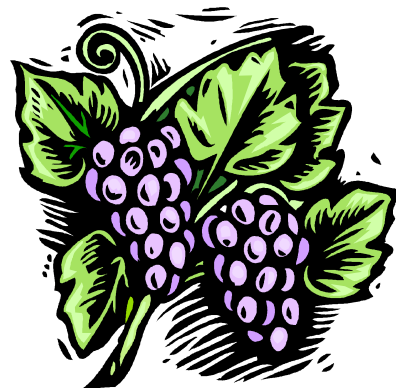
Angel Frische

- *Administrative Assistant*

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*John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit..."*



### *Vision Statement*

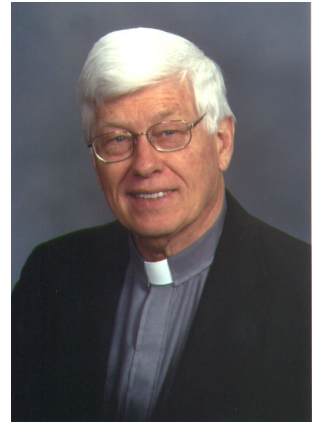
Our vision is to share God's grace and love with everyone we can through innovative expressions of faith. As a Christ-centered church family, we will care for all people and equip Christians for a significant life-changing ministry.



## Be A Lifter

*“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ”*

- Galations 6:2 RSV



A man had just written a very harsh letter to someone who had offended him. The mailbox into which he was about to drop the letter had the instructions on the door *“Lift Up”*. As he paused to read that sign, those words jolted him. The Spirit of the Lord convinced him that the letter he was depositing certainly would NOT “lift up” anybody, but would have been more appropriate if the sign had read *“Pull Down”*.

Stop to think about people you know, and I am sure you can think of many that are in need of a **“lifter”**. There are many around us who are carrying heavy burdens. Perhaps someone near you has a special crisis in his or her life. Could it be that a relative has faced a heavy life burden? Is a good Christian friend in some trouble? Are there members of the Vineyard of Faith congregation that you know have special problems or trials? Is it possible that In your own earthly family there is a division, heartache or grief? Are you, as brother or sister in Christ, a **“lifter”**? Saint Paul said if we are to fulfill Christ’s law, the law of love, we must get under the load and assist those who are “burdened”.

I know several people who have medical problems that are out of this world. Others that we need to touch in ministry because of the pain of spousal abuse, child molestation, parental rejection, even “disinheritance” by family. We do not have to go to Afganistan to see pain, although that pain is certainly real. In our midst, that I am aware of, there are literally several dozen people who are carrying physical, emotional, and spiritual marks of war that cry out to our Lord.

People in pain need our prayers, need our arms around them, need our encouraging words of cheer, and need our cards or notes of hope. You know, it is always a joy to visit fellow believers who confess their trust in the Lord even in their pain and who often bless us as we seek to bless them.

Vineyard of Faith is, during my Transition ministry, working at a “fresh” start. We need so very much to be the people of Christ’s love, forgiveness, hope, and healing. Make every effort to reach out to fellow members of the VOF family. If you see someone missing from worship let them know they are missed. If you read in the bulletin of some prayer needs, don’t just sit there; pray and speak to those who are hurting.

The Word of God reminds us that the Body of Christ is made up of particular members and that these **“members may have the same care for one another”** (Corinthians 12:25 RSV). It should be our aim to listen to the Apostle Paul in telling us to keep our sights positive, our goals high, and our love in Christ active for others. His words in Philippians 4:18 come to my mind: **“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things”**. Instead of loading weight on each other, may we reach out and be a **“lifter of Christ’s love”**. We are surrounded by precious souls and hurting souls that need our healing touch of HOPE, HEALING, and HAPPINESS!

God bless you, my friend!  
Ted C. Mueller, *Transition Pastor*





## Prayer

***“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”***

***James 5:16***

It was not a coincidence that Ken Corriea was sharing Sunday morning about a friend who he prays with; that Joanne Hutchins was leading the children in a lesson on prayer that day; that Pastor Ted Mueller mentioned the importance of the entire congregation praying for our future Pastor; and that I was inviting all the ladies to begin a new bible study incorporating the book, What Happens When Women Pray. God is calling all of us to pray.

***Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (James 5:13-16).***

The Christians' most powerful resource is communion with God through prayer. The results are often greater than we thought were possible. Some people see prayer as a last resort to be tried when all else fails. This approach is backward. Prayer should come first. Because God's power is infinitely greater than ours, it only makes sense to rely on it—especially because God encourages us to do so. (Life Application Bible).

*Scientific studies to clinically confirm the efficacy of prayer have doubled in the past decades—encouraging news for those of us who have always known the power of prayer. Dr. Mitchell Krucoff, a cardiologist at Duke University, randomly selected 150 heart patients and placed them into five groups for a pilot research project. One group received standard cardiac care. Three others received treatments from a bedside therapist described as imagery, stress relaxation, and touch therapy. A final group received distant “off-site intercessory prayer.” Those in the prayer therapy group improved by more than 50 percent. (Excerpt from When God Winks at You by Squire Rushnell.)*

I remember my husband's grandmother telling me a story, years ago, about a time when grandpa ran out of work and there was no food. She got down on her knees and prayed for God to supply. Grandpa came home with a new job that very day. God gave him the courage to ask for an advancement to buy groceries. Grandma Lefor trusted God to care for their needs and He didn't disappoint her.

In Squire Rushnell's book, When God Winks at You, there is a story about a boat that capsized with two men and a dog in it, and one of them prayed for the first time.

*Gerry didn't really believe in anything. He'd been a heathen all his adult life. There*

*Continued, next page*





## *Prayer, continued*

*were times as a kid when he sort of allowed that God existed, but as an adult he was a self-described “drinkin’, cheatin’ heathen, looking for love in all the wrong places.” Gerry lifted his eyes toward the sky, unsure of how to say what he was going to say. “God . . . if you hear me . . . please, please send us a boat. Send us a boat, God. Please save us.” Then—not two minutes later—he couldn’t believe what his eyes were seeing. “Mac . . . I see something!”*

*Through the morning mist Gerry could see the shadows of a cross . . . the mast of a boat coming through the channel. Through the haze we started to make out . . . a big boat . . . probably seventy-five feet long.*

*Doubtful thoughts rushed through his mind. Would they see them—just a blob in rough waters? Would somebody on that boat be looking off to the south, at just the right moment, to see somebody where they shouldn’t be, off in the distance waving a shirt on a pole? “Mac . . . I think they see us! They’ve stopped! It hadn’t dawned on him yet that within moments of asking for help from the Almighty, the boat actually showed up. But the moment Gerry saw the name of the boat, it struck him—like a ton of bricks. He knew right then and there that God had heard his pleading prayer and had saved him.*

*The boat’s name was **Second Chance**.*

*On the drive to the hospital, the power of what had happened that day raced through Gerry’s mind—the near-death tragedy and the miracle rescue. A flood of tears were triggered as Gerry pulled to the side of the road. He placed his head in his arms on the steering wheel and thanked the Almighty.*

*Gerry Ponson experienced a major transformation in his life. It was emblazoned on his heart and mind that a boat named Second Chance had been delivered to him through prayer, just as he was giving up all hope. Gerry committed himself to serving his Maker for the rest of his life. He’s been a street preacher ever since. Don’t try to convince Gerry that prayer is not “fact” . . . he knows differently! (Excerpts from When God Winks at You, pages 96-101). For those of you concerned about the dog, yes, Booga was also rescued after he swam 1 ½ miles to the marshy shoreline.*

As Stephen Ministers we depend upon praying to our Heavenly Father to help us every day. We ask God to give us wisdom as we come along side our care receivers. How’s your prayer life? Do you begin your day with our Lord in prayer? Don’t miss out on the greatest opportunity to connect to our power source. And as you pray, don’t forget to pray for a miracle. I’ve heard from many of you about little miracles happening in your life. Stephen Ministers are available if you need someone to come along side of you.

Serving Him,  
Sharie





## “Open My Eyes, Lord”



If you haven't noticed with some of our Praise Team song selections, one of my favorite contemporary songwriter/worship leaders is Paul Baloche. I was introduced to his ministry several years back at a guitar conference in Hayward. What an awesome and inspiring man of God. That weekend I learned that he composed the song “Open The Eyes of My Heart” which, of course, is one of our favorite songs of worship here at Vineyard of Faith. But what captured me most about this man was his heart of worship. Truly the songs he writes are birthed from a heart of prayers. I have heard it said that when he wrote “Open The Eyes of My Heart”, it was a result of a frequent prayer, by his pastor. His pastor would often pray before his message, “Lord just open the eyes of our hearts, as we open up your Word”.

When Paul wrote his letter to the church of Ephesus, he wanted to strengthen and encourage the believers in their Christian faith. And like the pastor who would pray to have the eyes of our heart opened, Paul tells this church, “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.” (Ephesians 1:18-19) Brothers and sisters in Christ, Paul declares that we have complete assurance of victory in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is at work, but sometimes we don't see it because His ways are different than ours. I suppose that's why Paul prays, “... that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened..”. But I am confident you'll know when your eyes are open. You are seeing with the eyes of your heart when you hold on despite what your eyes can see. When God takes you through one of your storms and you stay confident in His ability to still work through you; then, yes, your eyes have been opened.

It is my prayer that, daily, we ask the Father to “open our eyes”, to help us become the priests that He has called us to be. To be encouragers of one another; to pray for one another and to ask Him what He has called each of us to do, to serve others, to the glory of His Kingdom.

So, the next time we sing, “Open The Eyes of My Heart”, may our Lord Jesus Christ wrap His loving arms around you, and that His calling for you, will help us all to see the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Joy In Jesus,  
Ken Corriea





## Inspirational Insights

### “Christians”

When I say...“I am a Christian”  
I’m not shouting, “I’m clean livin’,”  
I’m whispering, “I was lost,  
Now I’m found and forgiven.”

When I say... “ I am a Christian”  
I don’t speak with pride,  
I’m confessing that I stumble  
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say...“I am a Christian”  
I’m not trying to be strong,  
I’m professing that I’m weak  
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say...“I am a Christian”  
I’m not claiming to be perfect,  
My flaws are far too visible  
But God believes I’m worth it.

When I say...“I am a Christian”  
I still feel the sting of pain,  
I have my share of heartaches  
So I call upon His name.

When I say...“I am a Christian”  
I’m not holier than thou,  
I’m just a simple sinner  
Who received God’s Grace somehow!

-Maya Angelou





# Birthdays of the Month

- Ginger Brinlee - February 1
- Bob Lefor - February 1
- Bobbi Dick - February 2
- Dean Soiland - February 2
- Mike Hoesly - February 6
- Steve Humphrey - February 7
- Erin Brandt - February 9
- Jeff Lefor - February 13
- Casey McLaughlin - February 15
- Scott McLaughlin - February 15
- Mark Reynolds - February 16
- Susan Gillette - February 23
- Dianne Naber - February 23
- Amanda Faivre - February 25
- Gabriel Faivre - February 25
- Susan Barnett-Kiengsiri - February 27



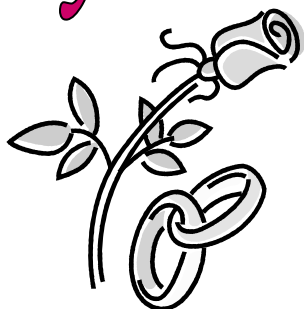
*Need to update your information for the V.O.F. phone directory? Forms are available in the church foyer. Just drop in the offering basket when completed.*

*Linda Bracey: 529-5241*

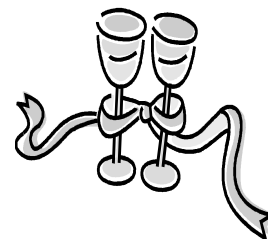
*Charmaine Bodtker  
8938 Oakfield Lane  
Windsor, CA 95492  
(707) 836-9705*

*Denny & Cathy Ripple:  
[theripplefamily@yahoo.com](mailto:theripplefamily@yahoo.com)*

# Anniversaries This Month



- Dan & Angel Frische - February 9
- Patrick & Renee Ortiz - February 9
- Barry & Debi Wagner - February 14
- Rick & Marcy DeMaria - February 14
- Steve & Cindy Humphrey - February 14
- Steve & Bobbi Dick - February 22
- Matt & Lori Lefor - February 23
- David & Jane Anderson - February 25



# Church News



## New Ladies Bible Study!

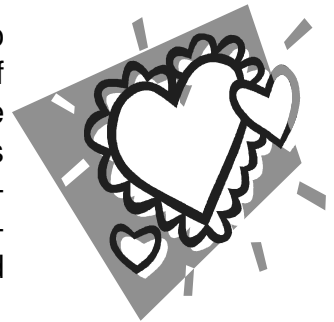
Meetings will be on Monday nights from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM, starting February 2nd. We will begin with the book What Happens When Women Pray, and have copies available for purchase. Don't forget to bring your bible, too! All women 18 and older are welcome!

## GriefShare Meetings

Paula Kraus-Finley will be starting a new GriefShare grief recovery support group on Thursday, February 5th at 7:00 PM in Windsor. Are you ready to begin your journey from mourning to joy? For more information or directions, please call Paula at 837-8123.

## DIVE Team

The Dive Team is showing the Windsor Community God's love-- no strings attached! --This month we will be making Valentines for some of the elderly communities in Windsor, along with our discipleship Bible study. This is what it's about... finding ways to serve God by showing His love and spreading the Good News right here! If you are under the impression that we are out knocking on doors-- kind of the traditional evangelism picture- this is NOT the case. Please come join us ANYTIME and see for yourself-- everyone is welcome to help with the projects, too!



## Lenten Services

We will be having a Family Lenten Supper and Worship on Ash Wednesday, February 25th.

	<u>Offering Total</u>	<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>Difference &lt;Shortfall&gt;</u>
December 2008 (4 Sundays + Christmas Eve)	\$ 18,762.00	\$ 20,599.00	\$ < - 1,837.00 >
Year To Date (7/1/08-12/31/08)	\$104,182.80	\$125,147.00	\$ < -20,964.20 >



VOF Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM; Closed on Mondays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 1 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service & Children's Church COMMUNION	 2 6:30 PM Soulfire Sr. High Ladies Bible Study			5 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice	 6 6:00 PM Facility Use: Good Shepard Church	 7 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study
8 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service & Children's Church	9 6:30 PM Soulfire Sr. High Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM God's Iron Men Bible Study	10 7:00 PM Steps Come Alive Recovery Meeting	11 5:30 PM SWAT Jr. High 7:00 PM DIVE Team	12 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice	13 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study <b>Happy Valentine's Day!</b>	14 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study
15 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service & Children's Church COMMUNION	16 <b>President's Day                      Holiday</b>	17 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM Steps Come Alive Recovery Meeting	18 5:30 PM SWAT Jr. High	19 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice	20 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study	21 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study
22 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service & Children's Church 11:45 AM MST Meeting	23 6:30 PM Soulfire Sr. High Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM God's Iron Men Bible Study	24 7:00 PM Steps Come Alive Recovery Meeting	25 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Family Lenten Supper & Worship Service	26 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice	27 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study	28 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study

