

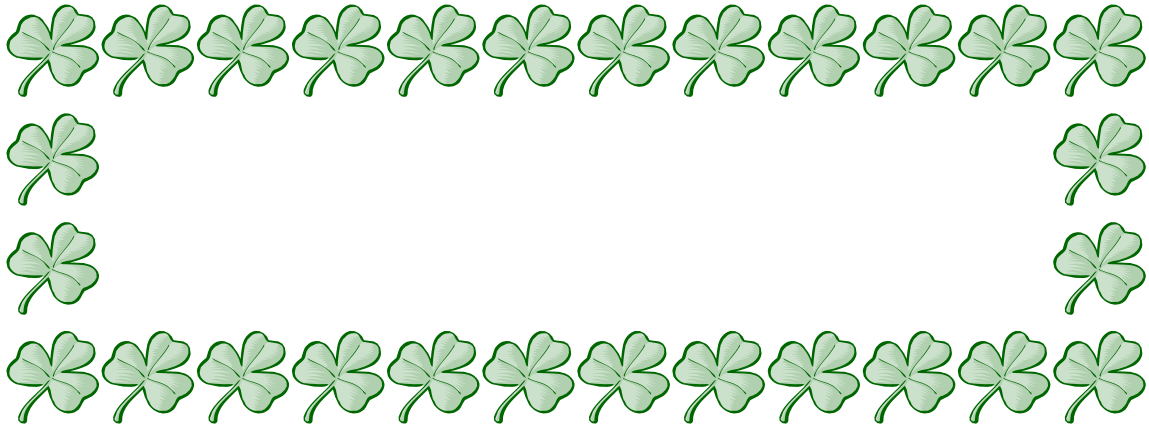


Vineyard of Faith LC-MS
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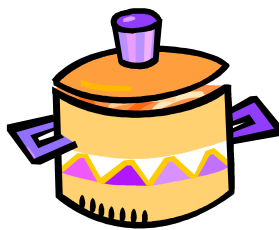


March 2010

Inside this issue:

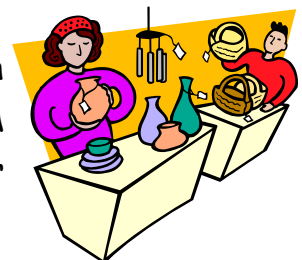
Staff & MST	2
From Pastor Lonnie	3
Stephen Ministry	4
A Note of Praise	5
MST Chairman Letter	6
MST Minutes, Financials	7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	8
Volunteer Schedules	8
Calendar of Events	9
Sponsors Page	10

March Events



Wednesdays: March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
 Lenten Potluck Suppers & Services

Saturday, March 13th
 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Spring Shopping Bazaar



Saturday, March 20th
 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM
 Facility Use: Private Party

NEED TO CONTACT THE STAFF?

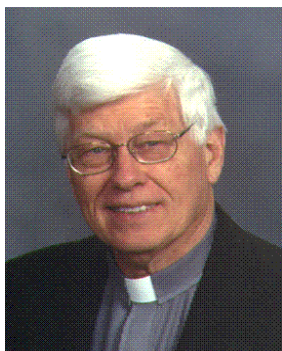
Church Office: (707) 837-8712

Lonnie Felcher

Pastor Intern

-ext. 201

- pastorlonnie@vof.org



Rev. Ted Mueller

Transition Pastor

- ext. 202

- pastorted@vof.org

Ken Corriea

Music Director

- ext. 203

- kcorriea@vof.org



Photo
Coming
Soon

Angel Frische

Administrative Assistant

- ext. 200

- office@vof.org

Sharie Lefor

Stephen Ministry Coordinator (Volunteer)

shariel@juno.com

Vision Statement

Vineyard of Faith's soul purpose for being is to fulfill God's loving mission; *sharing* His saving message of Christ, *caring* as Jesus cares, we partner together *preparing* for changed lives, offering His comfort, His hope, and fulfilling God's promises for this life and life eternal.

Ministry Support Team

Dave Anderson: Chairman, Fellowship

davidanderson10@comcast.net

Delores Hampton: Vice-Chair, Evangelism

dhampton@sonoma-county.org

Jeanice Holtzer: Treasurer

jholtzer@earthlink.net

Ken Corriea: Music & Drama Ministry

kcorriea@comcast.net

Jane Anderson: Secretary

janderson@windsorchristianacademy.org

Bob Lefor: Property

boblefor@yahoo.com

Larry Lefor: Worship Ministry

llefor.ehs@wscuhd.k12.ca.us

Renee Ortiz: Youth Ministry

ROrtizMom3@aol.com

Open: Stewardship Ministry



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



From Pastor Lonnie's Desk...

God's peace to you in the name of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

As we journey together through this season of Lent and make our way toward the cross, I can't help but think, "How appropriate that we prepare to celebrate, at this time of year, the new life we have in the empty tomb of Easter."

As winter gives way to spring here in California, I praise God that He has brought me to you. And what a beautiful area we live in. Trees that seemed lifeless just weeks ago are now bursting with life. Many have new buds, while others already have flowers and a new crop of leaves.

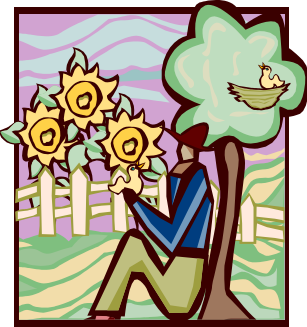
While walking under the mighty Oak trees around the church grounds one morning I spied a pair of Starlings cleaning out a knot hole for their new home as they prepared to start their new family. As I watched those two, I noticed that other birds were, as Bambi called it, "twitter pated" as they danced for each other and chirped among the branches.

What a joy it is to watch God's creation as it wakes up, to see the new life He has created. Spring is an amazing time to see all of God's creation in nature renewed. Lent is also a wondrous time of the year to focus on the new life God has given us through the life, death, and resurrection of His son and our Risen Savior, Christ Jesus.

In the waters of baptism God gave us new life through our Easter Jesus. The Apostle Paul wrote, "When the kindness and love of God appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that having been justified by his grace we might become heirs, having the hope of eternal life." *Titus 3:4-7*

God's blessings to you as you enjoy renewal in Him.

Your servant in Christ,
Lonnie Felcher P.I.



Weathering the Showers

The Water Garden, by Claude Monet, is one of my favorite paintings. You will find the original in an impressionist museum, De L'Orangerie, in Paris. It is painted in the round and hangs in a circular room. When you stand in the center of the room you are completely engulfed in a luxuriant water garden!

If you study the painting, one of the surprises you will find is that the major part of the canvas is covered in dark shades of black, blue and green. These rather drab colors stand in stark contrast to the delicate pastels. Actually, they serve to highlight the beautiful florals, which appear rich and striking upon the deep, dark waters. At first glance, your eyes are drawn to the colorful petals; then you realize that Monet painted the dark tones to enhance the lighter.



Monet's painting has much to remind me about the water garden of my life, and of its Artist. First, it encourages me that there is a purpose and design to my life and that perhaps, at times, I focus too exclusively on the darker portions of my painting.

It also reminds me that my Lord, the Artist of my life, has intentionally allowed the blue, green and, yes, sometimes even the gray and black hues to be brushed on my canvas for a reason. God uses these shadows to make my life richer. Often, when I look back on difficulties, such as my father's death, times when I have been misunderstood by friends or my expectations have been dashed, I can see, now, His handiwork creating a brilliance of color and beauty from pain and suffering. The Artist uses a multitude of techniques in our lives to help us become the people He created us to be.

Finally, I am reminded that, just like the water lilies in Monet's masterpiece, God keeps the leaves and petals afloat through the muck, wind and rain that are part of the storms of life. Water gardens survive Spring showers and worse, and I will too, by God's help and grace.

- by Beth Seversen (excerpt from the Women's Devotional Bible)



As With the Olympic Flame, Pass the Torch of God's Love

After watching the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics, I found this piece by Carol Steeves and wanted to share it with you.

It's time for the much anticipated Winter Olympics! The triumphant entry of the Olympic Torch was a spectacle that ignited the beginning of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

It is amazing to think of the journey and the care that has been taken for the Olympic Flame to reach its final place of prominence and honor. The Canadian Olympic Torch Relay has travelled over 45,000 kilometers -- historically the longest distance within any host country. It has journeyed over 100 days, to over 1,000 communities. According to the official website, more than 90 percent of Canada's population was within a one hour driving distance of seeing the Olympic Flame.

The Torch Relay symbolizes "peace, hope, inclusiveness, equality, joy and fraternity" and traces its beginnings in Greece as a summons to the ancient Games of the Olympia. It travelled throughout the land declaring a "sacred truce" during the Games.

Interestingly, we all want what the Olympic Flame symbolizes, peace, as we wrestle with personal problems, hurtful habits and hang-ups. We all crave a sense of hope as we face what seem to be insurmountable life struggles. We want to feel like we belong whether it's within our families, our workplaces or communities. We want to be treated with respect and fairness; experience joy and connection. Some of us just want to call a "truce" in our warring relationships.

So how do we experience all that this flame represents in our lives? We know that the torch is only a symbol, kept ignited by propane, and doesn't really have the power to bring all these wonderful results into the lives of those who see it, as exciting as that may be.

There is another flame; the flame of faith that is ignited in the hearts of those who have placed their trust in Jesus Christ. Jesus said; "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

Jesus' "Torch Relay" began over 2,000 years ago when he died on the cross, taking on the darkness of this world, and rose again bringing the warm glow of God's grace now available for those who believe. Jesus' death began a "truce" between God and man; bringing the offer of peace and reconciliation for those who will respond and take the torch.

Jesus, light of the world, shines in the darkness of our lives, giving us peace because we know that he is with us no matter what we face; hope as we discover that there is no circumstance in our lives too big that he can't overcome; belonging, as we are part of a family of faith locally and around the world that will last forever.

The good news is his message has spread like wildfire throughout the world. For those of us who carry this light, we are called to be torch bearers, passing the flame of faith to all who want to experience the joy and peace that Jesus brings into their lives.

The Bible says; "You are the light of the world -- like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp, then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

The Olympic Flame will be all but forgotten once the Games are over, but the light of God's love through Christ will shine forever. Pass it on!

To all of you at Vineyard of Faith, let's take the challenge to Pass It On!

Serving Him,
Sharie



A Note of Praise

I'd like to share an article I happened upon last year. May He bless you as you read it:

"True Story: Brenda Foltz was almost halfway to the top of the tremendous granite cliff. She was standing on a ledge where she was taking a breather during this, her first rock climb. As she rested there, the safety rope snapped against her eye and knocked out her contact lens. "Great", she thought. "Here I am on a rock ledge, hundreds of feet from the bottom and hundreds of feet to the top of this cliff, and now my sight is blurry."

She looked and looked, hoping that somehow it had landed on the ledge. But it just wasn't there. She felt the panic rising in her, so she began praying. She prayed for calm, and she prayed that she may find her contact lens.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but it was not to be found. Although she was calm now that she was at the top, she was saddened because she could not clearly see across the range of mountains. She thought of the bible verse "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth."

She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Later, when they had hiked down the trail to the bottom of the cliff they met another party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?" Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across a twig on the face of the rock, carrying it!

The story doesn't end there. Brenda's father is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a cartoon of an ant lugging that contact lens with the caption, "Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."

I think it would do all of us some good to say, "God, I don't know why You want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But, if You want me to carry it, I will."

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

I have strength for everything through Him Who strengthens me." - Phil. 4:13



Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

- Matthew 11:28-30



Dear VOF Family:

In January I provided this congregation with a financial report which covered the past six months. In that report we had an average monthly income of \$12,163 - which left a monthly shortfall of \$3,087 to make budget. To date all payroll and bills related to running this church have been met and paid. However, we have fallen behind on our flex note, (mortgage payment). The flex note for December and January has not been paid, leaving us behind in our mortgage payment \$6,000. The MST Board took action and made every effort to save money in areas relating to the operation of this church. This action has resulted in disciplined spending; however more action needs to be taken. You might also recall that we have received a grant from District which has added some relief.

A Mission Statement was adopted by this congregation on January 14, 2010, that states: "Vineyard of Faith's soul purpose for being is to fulfill God's loving mission; sharing His saving message of Christ. Caring as Jesus cares; we partner together preparing for Changed lives, offering His comfort, His hope, and fulfilling God's promises for this life and life eternal." The MST Board met on February 6 where we spent the day discussing how we can overcome this shortfall. In keeping with the Mission Statement the MST put together a strategy which will be outlined in this letter.

God has blessed this family in so many ways over the past year. As I reflect back it was not just a few who kept these doors open, prayed, and carried a heavy heart, it was all of us, this family. Through those trials we have now been blessed with a new pastor. I'm reminded of a song, "The Potters Hand":

*You gently call me into your presence / Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit, teach me dear Lord.
To live all of my life through Your eyes / I'm captured by Your holy calling
Set me apart, I know You're drawing me to Yourself. / Lead me Lord, I pray.
Take me, mold me, use me, fill me, / I give my life to the Potters Hand.
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me / I give my life, to the Potters Hand.*

It will take all of us to meet this challenge, not just a few. As it says in the song, "Take me, mold me, use me, fill me I give my life to the Potter's Hand", we too will be looking at you to be a part of the work that needs to done at VOF. God has given all of us the gift of "Hands", and now it is time for all of us to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

In order to better address this, the MST's strategy is to come at the problem in three different directions. We have decided to split into two different committees, one titled "Passing the Baton" which will be chaired by Pastor Lonnie and has as members Ken Corriea, Renee Ortiz, Delores Hampton and Jeanice Holtzer. The second committee titled "Provisions and Resources" will be chaired by David Anderson and has Jane Anderson, Bob Lefor and Larry Lefor as members. The "Passing the Baton" committee's purpose will be to look at the spiritual side, community outreach and new members. The "Provisions and Resources" committee purpose will be twofold, one to look at providing additional income to the budget and secondly to provide entertainment and joy to the members. We have also agreed that **all** monies received will go directly to the general fund.

Strict spending guidelines will be established by the MST. First and foremost will be to take care of the salaries of our employees, bills, mortgage and, then to support those ministries we currently have going. Any monies that are currently being held in a particular ministry will remain.

Specifically is the youth account that has over \$9,000. This money will be used by the youth this summer to go to a retreat in New Orleans.

We are asking that you pray for and consider being a part of either "Passing the Baton" or "Provisions and Resources". Each committee has already put together ideas and a list of priorities that we would like to see done within the first 6 months. Committee ideas are;

<u>Passing the Baton</u>		<u>Provisions and Resources</u>	
Stewardship Program	New Membership Dinner	Scrip	Parade
Evangelism	New Membership Orientation	Property Rental	Carnival
Assimilation	Creation Day (Films and Activities)	Ladies' Tea	Off Site Church Picnic
Community Garden	Art Festival (Glorifying God and Activities)	Luau	Camping Trip
Men's/Ladies Retreat	Battle of the Bands or Concert	Easter Sun. Breakfast	Golf Tournament
Lenten Soup Dinners	Movie Night		
Ministry Faire	Fellowship Dinners		

Our intention is not to have all these ideas and others you may have completed within the first six months, but to have four programs from each committee enacted and fully functional.

Many hands truly do make a difference. More information will be forthcoming. I will be out of town the next three weeks. However, feel free to contact any MST member or Pastor Lonnie with ideas or questions concerning these two committees. We ask that you continue to pray for us as we get better organized to do God's work.

*In His service,
David Anderson, MST Chairman*



MST Meeting Minutes

MST Meeting minutes are always available on the bulletin board in the church office or in the MST Binder in the Foyer/Narthex.

February 6, 2010



- Treasure reported that we have a shortfall of \$3000 a month behind budget. Tithes/offerings for January were \$14, 541. All bills are paid except CEF payment for December and January. Current checking account balance is 3,100; Savings is \$2,000.
- Pastor Felcher were not in attendance.
- Ken Corriea reported that Bill Williams had held a training session on the sound board.
- Basement in Administration Building flooded. Dave had it pumped out and heater seems to be working well.
- Renee said she has been contacting area churches to set up VBS dates, so they do not conflict. There is a possibility of working with other churches to have a 'community' VBS summer.
- The Windsor Historical Society will not rent the main hall on 2-27 for a polenta feed.
- MST has worked together on February 6 to come up with ways of better using our facility and reaching out to the community.
- Thank you to Susan and Renee for our beautiful new banners.

Financial Report				
	<i>Checking Account</i>			
	<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Difference <Shortfall></u>
January 2010: (5 Sundays)	\$ 16,250.00	\$ 15,703.61	\$ 13,245.40	\$ 2,458.21
Year To Date: (7/1/09-1/31/10)	\$113,750.00	\$100,547.29	\$105,251.17	< \$-4,703.88 >

Church Directory Updates



New Address/Phone

Bill Katrenak
600 Bellevue Ave. #3024
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

Welcome to V.O.F.!

Scott & Debbie Andrews
324 Equestrian Gap
Healdsburg, CA 95448
478-2639

Jane Martin-Leach
614 Leaf Haven
Windsor, CA 95492
838-8733



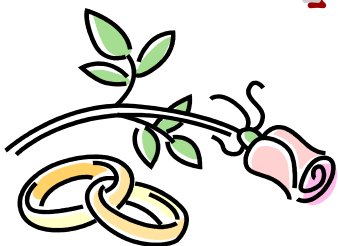
Happy Birthday!



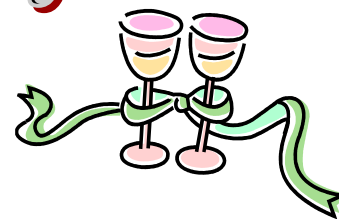
- Shirley Carvalho - March 1
- Angel Frische - March 14
- Cheryl Hegg - March 14
- Buddy Brown - March 20
- Mike Rogers - March 21
- Alan Westergard - March 24
- Karen Brown - March 29
- Shannon Rogers - March 29



Happy Anniversary!



- Bill & Valerie Williams - March 16
- Mark & Holly Silva - March 19



Good and Faithful Servants

March 2010 Volunteer Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Acolytes	Prayer Partners	Communion Servers	Sunday School
March 7th	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Dave Anderson Jane Anderson Pat Heagerty	Annie Frische	Barbara Killean Monica Missner Steve Missner Larry Lefor	Steve Missner Rob Cordis	Joanne Hutchins Cyndi Rogan
March 14th	Denise Sanders Joyce Wycoff	Alan Westergard Bob Lefor Gerald Schallon	Simone Barnard	Jeanice Holtzer Cyndi Rogan Rick Rogan Steve Missner	No Communion	Cyndi Rogan
March 21st	Linda Bracey Val Holbrook	John Young Dennis Ripple Dana Finger	Jackson Barnard	Angel Frische Delores Hampton Larry Lefor Steve Missner	David Anderson Nancy Chadwick Pat Heagerty	Joanne Hutchins Jane Anderson
March 28th	Cathy Ripple Dorothy Adkins	Dave Anderson Jane Anderson Pat Heagerty	Madeline Ortiz	Jeanice Holtzer Sharie Lefor Larry Lefor Rick Rogan	No Communion	Jane Anderson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service & COMMUNION 11:15 AM Sunday School	1 7:00 PM Great Expectations Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Souffire Sr.High	2 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM 20-Somethings Bible Study	3 6:00 PM Lenten Potluck & Service	4 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice	5 	6 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study 2:00-5:00 PM Potluck: Affirmation of Life
7 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service & COMMUNION 11:15 AM Sunday School	8 7:00 PM Great Expectations Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Souffire Sr.High	9 7:00 PM 20-Somethings Bible Study 7:00PM God's Iron Men Bible Study	10 6:00 PM Lenten Potluck & Service	11 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice	12 	13 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Spring Bazaar
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28 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service 11:15 AM Sunday School	29 7:00 PM Great Expectations Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Souffire Sr.High	30 7:00 PM 20-Somethings Bible Study	31 	<h1>March 2010</h1>		



