

November/December 2011

CHAPEL in the PINES

planted – growing – fruitful



The Chapel leadership team wishes you the merriest of Christmases.

Why Membership? by Pastor Chris Kalton

Consider participating in the upcoming Chapel membership class on November 6.

My life was turned upside down when I started following Christ as a teenager at First Church of God in Santa Maria. In the Church of God movement, theologians argued that I was now a member of the Church (universal; note the capital “C”). A membership class was not necessary. In fact, a class didn’t exist. The Church of God didn’t have membership in the local church, but maintained that if one professed faith in Christ, she or he would automatically become members of God’s Church, including the local church. Today, I understand this is an incomplete understanding.

Our God is always about giving flesh to spiritual realities. We see this in circumcision, baptism, and communion; as a priest, a prophet, a king, Israel, Jesus, or the Church. While it’s true that one enters into membership in the spiritual Church upon profession of Jesus as Lord, the local church is the incarnation of this universal church. So, Chapel is the Church in the flesh, a physical manifestation of a spiritual reality. Church membership replete with class, covenant, faith, declaration, leadership, approval, and congregational vote is a physical manifestation of a spiritual reality. Today, these put into the flesh what we recognize is happening spiritually.

Entering into membership at Chapel is necessary. Membership invites us to incarnate our commitment to each

other, to publicly declare our faith, and to be held accountable to one another. By doing so, we take seriously the belief that Chapel members are genuinely converted Christians. *Continued on page 2*

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Operation
Christmas Child



November 13

1:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Gather with your church community on Sunday afternoon to wrap your Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and pray for all their recipients. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship as we all serve those in need while enjoying each other’s company as we eat cornbread and taco soup.

Membership Class

Sunday, November 6
Noon to 4 p.m.

If you are considering taking a next step in the Chapel community, this is it. The membership class will help you get plugged in to the Chapel family. By attending the membership class, you are **not** making a commitment to become a member, though you will have that option at the end of the class.

This will be your opportunity to explore Chapel membership and ask questions.

To register, go online or check the "Membership Class" box on the back side of Sunday's communication card.

www.chapelinthepines.org

Membership Class Outline

1. The Chapel's Denomination
2. Membership Commitments
3. Purpose and Core Values
4. Spiritual Gifts
5. The Chapel Structure
6. Membership Covenant
7. Pre-Christians and the Chapel

Five Biblical Reasons for Chapel Membership

1. The New Testament churches were local, visible churches. (Acts 11:26)
2. The local church is God's tool for bringing His people to full maturity in knowledge and faith. (Eph. 4:11-13)
3. Much of the Bible can't be obeyed without belonging to the church as a member. (1 Thes. 5:13; Heb. 13:17)
4. Membership signifies a church's corporate endorsement of a person's personal confession. (1 Cor. 5:1-13)
5. Church membership signifies an individual commitment to grasp hold of one another in mutual love and discipleship. (Romans 12:10)

Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Basket Donations



The Holidays Are Approaching Quickly

If you'd like the opportunity to share your blessings with the less fortunate, pick up a Thanksgiving and/or Christmas donation list in the foyer. Your contribution(s) will help assemble and fill holiday food baskets, which will be distributed to needy people in the Arnold community.

Thanksgiving Food Basket Donations: Bring your donation to the Chapel office (Monday through Thursday) by Monday, November 14.

Christmas Food Basket Donations: Bring your Christmas food donation to the Chapel office by Sunday, December 18.

Thank you for your care and generosity.

Why Membership?

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This creates space to hear people's testimonies and faith journeys, while looking for evidences of godly fruit and holiness.

The Lord has called me to vocational ministry. When I interviewed at Chapel, people wanted to know if I was qualified. Had I been trained and vetted? Did the denomination recognize and affirm my call? Did other pastors recognize and affirm my call? Why isn't it enough to just declare that I have been called to ministry? These are important questions.

So, why shouldn't Chapel leadership properly vet potential members who are making decisions for our ministry direction, church leadership, budgeting, and so on? I was interviewed. Shouldn't we also interview those we are asking to partner with us in ministry at Chapel?

One of the greatest days of my life was experiencing ordination. The Board of Ordered Ministry welcomed me as a colleague, to protect the faith, mission, and theology of the Christian faith. With this privilege comes great responsibility and accountability. The denomination holds me accountable to a code of ethics and participation in the denomination. This is what you want for your pastors, right? This is also what you should desire for yourself.

Read the **Five Biblical Reasons for Membership** (to the left) and consider participating in the upcoming Chapel membership class on November 6. You can participate in the class without committing to become a Chapel member.

Joe and Sma White, Durban, South Africa



* Joe is now working part time with World Changers Academy (WCA).

* He's still busy setting up a South African national network of organizations.

* Sma keeps busy studying at University of South Africa, seeking completion and a degree in industrial psychology.

* Sma is setting up a training company, Fli Hi Training, to provide programs similar to what WCA provides but for employees rather than high school students and unemployed.

* Sma is also involved with son Alex's development, specifically dealing with deaf children's concerns and needs.

* Alex is doing well at school. He's still a boarder from Monday through Friday.

* Ayanda is at a "creche" from 8 to 5 p.m., daily, doing well generally.

Prayer Requests

The Whites need help focussing on and following God's priorities.

Women Ministries

Women: Do not miss out on opportunities for you at the Chapel; opportunities to **be planted in Christ** and **grow in relationships**. Below are places you can plant yourself in Christ-centered studies and ministries that will help you grow in your relationship with God, as well as other women you connect and reconnect with in different seasons of life.

Tuesdays

Tuesday Women's Bible Study — Come join us on Tuesday mornings in PromiseLand, from 9:15 to 11:00 a.m., as we dig deeply into 2 Samuel. Interestingly, the book deals with human characters and events that would have made the daily newspapers and Internet circuit if available then. However, make no mistake about it: The author intends for us to see God's hand at work in it all. Please join us as we study the reign of King David.

Note: Childcare is not available.



Women's Fellowship — Covenant Women — Looking for wonderful fellowship with women of all ages? Want an opportunity to get to know other women? Women's Fellowship invites inspirational and informational speakers to encourage us to grow in relationship with fellow Chapel women and women in the community. Meet on the first Wednesday of every month in Fellowship Hall, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Childcare is available.

Thursdays

Yada Yada Book Club — Join us on the second and fourth Thursday of the month, from 7 to 8:00 p.m., in the back of the sanctuary, for a not-so-average, delightfully insightful and prayerful book club.



Together, we will read Neta Jackson's "Yada Yada Prayer Group." It's never too late to join in. Childcare is provided upon request.

Wednesdays

Wednesday Women's Bible Study — Meeting in PromiseLand every Wednesday, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., we're covering Beth Moore's "When Godly People Do Ungodly Things" study. Be prepared to grow in this insightful three-part study.



Part 1 is a warning to believers; part 2 shows women how to prepare for attacks by the enemy; part 3 is directed toward those snared by seduction, compassionately pointing ways back to God.



Ministry News

Drama Ministry

Pastor Chris is interested in using dramatic skits to illustrate his messages. The Chapel's new "Illumination" drama ministry team is searching for people interested in becoming a drama minister. Call the church office for details. (795-1064)



The Projection Ministry

Projection is a vital component of our worship service. We continue to look for qualified, dedicated individuals to run projection on Sundays. To schedule training, contact the church office.



Usher/Greeter Ministry

A vital component of our worship service is ushering and greeting. We're looking for one new team of people who want to share the joy of the Lord in this capacity. Contact the head usher, any Sunday.

FLORAL DONATIONS WANTED

IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES, FOR ANY REASON, PLEASE CALL JEANNE AT THE OFFICE — 795-1064. COST IS \$30 PER ARRANGEMENT.

Short-term Missions

Thanks to all who served at the Gospel Center Rescue Mission in Stockton. The week-long Bible school was a highlight.

Many thanks to those of you who volunteered to work last month on the construction projects. The Gospel Center's newsletter highlighted your efforts, giving the Chapel's servants a special note of gratitude.

You were a blessing to those to whom you minis-

tered; you continue to be a blessing here in your home church.

From the missions committee chair person, "Thank you very much for your giving efforts. You have set the example of grateful, dedicated service for fellow Chapel members."



Blessing Our Children

No matter the age of our children, we want the very best for them. Praying for them is likely the most significant way to seek and provide to them "God's best." Below are prayer verses from Focus on the Family. May you use them as a resource to pray for your children.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace (Numbers 6:26-26).

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your

whole spirit, soul and body, be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God (Philippians 1:9-11).

CHAPEL
in the PINES

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