

Presbytery Agrees to Denominational Change



The Sacramento Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. (PCUSA) voted 146 - 18 to dismiss FOPC with all of its property to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) at its quarterly meeting on December 4, 2007. Immediately after the vote, officials from FOPC and the Sacramento Presbytery signed all the necessary documents to ratify the transfer of FOPC to its new denomination. The effective date of the change from the PCUSA to the EPC was to be January 1, 2008.

The presbytery meeting, which was covered with prayer by FOPC, was hosted by Bidwell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Chico, CA. After beginning with worship and communion, the first order of business was the consideration of the two Tentative Agreements for dismissal reached in November. One was between FOPC and the presbytery representatives, and the other was between the First Presbyterian Church of Roseville and the same presbytery committee. The mood of the presbytery was tense and dramatic as the terms of dismissal for the two churches were discussed for more than an hour. Most of the questions centered on the monetary gifts from the two churches to the presbytery. A secret-ballot vote was taken shortly after noon, and the results were announced a short time later. Both Pastor Henry and Pastor Jim Barstow of Roseville Presbyterian were humble and thankful in their remarks following the historic vote.

It may seem like it would be an easy process for a church to change denominations. However, some denominations, like the PCUSA, have a purported property trust clause in their Book of Order that makes a transfer very difficult. (The EPC does not have a property trust clause, and it recognizes that each local church owns its own property.)

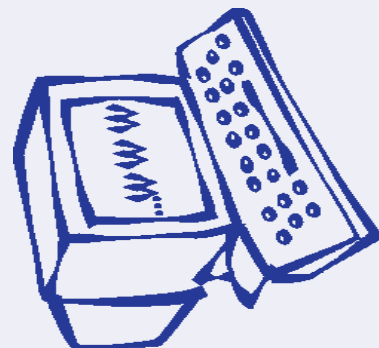
On Christmas Eve, at 3:30 PM, our legal counsel was notified that the senior pastor, two associates, and the session of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Sacramento filed a complaint with the Synod of the Pacific asking it to stay the action of the Presbytery. The Synod agreed to stay the action and to hear the matter. The result is that the settlement agreed upon by the negotiating teams and affirmed by the Presbytery is delayed. Our journey to the EPC is not yet complete.

It was just over three years ago that a group of elders and staff at a leadership conference agreed that it might be possible to transfer denominations, and they pledged to seek God's will for FOPC regarding its denominational affiliation. First, the Church and Society Commission, and then the session-appointed Task Force on Denominational Relations, studied and prayed about the PCUSA. After the 2006 General Assembly passed the controversial Trinity and PUP reports, session intensified its efforts to research and pray about its relationship with the PCUSA. At the same time the New Wineskins Association and the EPC merged their organizations which provided an attractive alternative to the PCUSA. Along the way session kept the congregation informed about its actions and concerns. In 2007, session discerned that the issue was serious enough that some kind of action may need to be taken, and pastors and elders presented a summary of their concerns to the congregation at the September Town Hall meetings. This led to the historic vote on October 14 by the congregation to ask the presbytery for dismissal from the PCUSA to the EPC. Had the pastor of Westminster not filed the complaint, the vote by presbytery in Chico on December 4 would have completed the process.

Submitted by Chris Larsen

Non-Profit Org.
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For information on all church
activities and groups,
please visit us on the web!

www.fopc.org

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Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church



in **FOCUS**

February 08

Acts
ALL CHURCH TUESDAYS

See inside for details!

Acts

ALL CHURCH TUESDAYS

Introducing ACTs: All Church Tuesdays. Every Tuesday night, we invite folks of all ages to come to Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church to grow in the knowledge of the surpassing love of God (Eph. 3:19). Adding to our regular Children's (Route 56) and Youth Programs (High School & Junior High), we are introducing regular programs for adults to grow in faith and be equipped for life.

So get ready to set aside Tuesday Nights when we'll gather our whole church family to be in the Word and Work of God!

Every second Tuesday night of the month we'll set aside regular adult classes and encourage everyone to come to the Mission Potluck starting at 6:30. Kids can come with their parents and eat before heading to their activities.

Every Tuesday Night

Route 56 (for 5th and 6th graders)
7-8:30 PM in E5

Vertical View (for Junior Highers)
7-8:30 PM in Y2

Reflect (for High Schoolers)
7-8:30 PM in Y1

Adult Program 7-8:30 PM
Faith Essentials, Jan 22-Mar. 11

Missions Potluck Second Tues.,
6:30-8:30 PM in the FLC

New Discipleship Course!

Faith Essentials

Starting Tuesday, Jan. 22
7-8:30 PM (8 weeks)

Pastors Eric and Chris are teaming up again to talk about the essentials of our faith. During the last few months, you've heard a lot about "Essential Tenets". Did you know that our church subscribes to a set of "Essential Tenets"? We'll take a close look at our essential tenets and see how they relate to the "Westminster Confession of Faith".

Did you spend too much this Christmas? Are you struggling with credit card debt?
Back by Popular Demand! It's the Good \$ense Budget Course...

GOOD \$ENSE

Budget Course



Saturday, Feb. 9 • 9 AM-4:30 PM • FLC

New one-time lower price! \$20/couple or \$15/person

Make plans now to attend this top-knotch, Bible-based course that will change your family's financial life! Facilitated by David Schottky, Church Administrator, & Rachel Schottky and taught by video by Dick Towner, Willow Creek Church.

Jesus taught that how we use our money is an indication of our values and priorities. For many of us, organizing our finances according to biblical financial principles can be hindered by the pull of our materialistic culture, a lack of knowledge about wise financial practices, and the need for effective tools to implement them.

The Good \$ense Budget Course is designed to help you do just that. In this hands-on course, you'll learn how to honor God in your finances by becoming a...

- DILIGENT EARNER
- GENEROUS GIVER
- WISE SAVER
- CAUTIOUS DEBTOR
- PRUDENT CONSUMER

What will I learn?

You will learn what the Bible says about finances and how to combat cultural myths such as, "Debt is expected and unavoidable," "Things bring happiness," and "A little more money will solve all your problems."

During the course, you will develop a Spending Plan for the coming year. You will learn about and choose between three different record-keeping systems to help you stick to your plan. Most importantly, you will discover how being financially faithful can help you become financially free!

Cost: The registration fee is \$20 per couple. The fee includes the cost of materials and a light lunch for each participant.

Preparation: Please note that pre-work materials need to be completed prior to attending the course and will be mailed to you when you register.

For more information, call Nancy at (916) 967-4784, ext. 834 or nfaith@fopc.org, or see the brochure in the pew racks or church office. Register by Jan. 27.

MySpace

for Moms and Dads

Free presentation
Tues., February 26, 7-8:30 PM
For parents, guardians, and grandparents of kids 5th grade and up.

Teens (and 'tweens pretending to be teens) are flocking to online social networking sites like MySpace, one of hundreds – soon-to-be thousands – of similar sites. Users no longer just *get* information from the internet, but *create* content and *reveal* themselves. Now it's simple for

teens to connect with friends and peers, explore their world, and potentially open themselves up to online predators.

This shift in the way our world connects can create conflict within families where cautious yet under-informed parents seek to limit risks for their more tech-savvy but less life-experienced teens. Connie Neal author of *MySpace for Moms and Dads* (and Junior High Director at FOPC) will give an informative presentation for parents on the risks and rewards of online social networking. This will enable parents to confidently and calmly work out what is best for their family regarding social networking. Learn how you can use online social networking as a window into your child's world, even if you don't allow your child to have an online profile page.

Mariner's Cruise



Cruising Down the River

Sat., Feb. 9, 6-9 PM

\$5 donation per couple. Entertainment by Sacramento Capitolaire's Barber-shop Chorus. Interested in finding out more about Mariners? All couples are invited to attend the "cruise". Call the church office for more info.



All are welcome!

Annual Church Clean-up Day

Saturday, March 8
Anytime from 7:30-11:30 AM

- Come and help clean, dust, sanitize, paint and vacuum areas in need on our church campus.
- Equipment, supplies, coffee and goodies will be supplied.
- Come to the Sunday School Courtyard for directions.
- Most assignments can be completed in an hour or so (depending on the amount of fellowshiping!).
- Come and have some fun with your FOPC family and do a great service for God and our church.

Sponsored by
FOPC Mariners' Fleet Board



Dominic Fisher
December 28, 2007
Parents: Jarrod and Christina Fisher

Grief Recovery

Workshop

Tuesdays, Mar. 4-Apr. 8
10 AM-12 PM in Conf. B

Sign up with Mary, 967-4784, ext. 876. Cost \$10 for materials. Childcare available. Join with others in moving through your grief.



Habitat for Humanity

Thanks for the lunches!
You did it again.

The response from our church for lunches for Sacramento Habitat for Humanity during 2007 was truly appreciated by the workers.

Seven Mariner Ships-Noah's Ark II, Calypso, Icebreakers, Silver Sloop (2), Masters Yacht, Three Masters, and Lighthouse-as well as Maggie Cabutage family, Lillian Jones, Busy B Quilting Group, Scott & Debbie Hickey family and Velma Hunsucker demonstrated the true meaning of Christian mission to the community.

Barbara is again looking for volunteers to cover the following dates for 2008 lunches: **January-26**, February 23, March 22 & 29, **April-26**, May 31, June 28, July 26, August 23 & 30, September 27, October 25, and November 22. Call the church office for more info.

Our many thanks go out again to those who served.

Barbara & Harold Ray

Save the date!

missions
Auction

Saturday, April 12

Save the date for this year's Missions auction to benefit our team trips. We are currently accepting donations of **new** items for both our silent and live auction. Services, cabins, timeshares, and other big ticket items are also needed. If you would like to help us with the organization and running of this event, please contact the Missions office, 967-4784 ext. 830.

Fair Oaks Rock Choir

Help our youth go on choir tour this March by being a Promise Partner to a Rock Choir member. A Promise Partner pledges to:

1. Support the choir with a donation of \$25 or more.
2. Pray for a specific youth during the tour.

You will receive updates from your student on tour. Please pick up a form at the youth table, in the office, or drop this form with \$25 (checks made out to FOPC) in the office.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

email _____