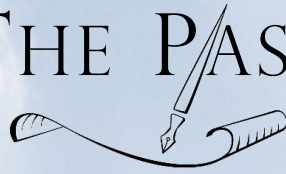


FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



January 2011

2010 IN REVIEW

TROY ONSAGER

So I asked myself the question, what really happened for EPC in 2010? Here's a brief sampling of what I could remember.

- At the beginning of 2010, the Deacons facilitated food preparation for the Salvation Army in our second year of commitment to their Shelter in Modesto. The food preparation teams were full this year and the youth helped out as well.
- In February, Mission Outreach sent a team of three to Zimbabwe to visit our dear friends and to talk about the continuing mission of Zimbabwe First Fruits food packs, new farming techniques and training as well as the proposed water wells for the village of Gwindingwe and a nearby school.
- Our Easter celebration required our church to start two separate services – a good thing as the total number who joined us in worship would not have fit in our Sanctuary.
- In April, a small group of youth and adult leaders joined the Covenant Church for a mission trip to Mexicali. Early on in the trip an earthquake hit the region, but the teams continued their work through the week and the youth presented powerful testimonies to our church in their return.
- In May, the local churches of Escalon participated in the second Faith In Action Weekend. This year's projects included the preparation of World Vision HIV Caregiver kits at EPC which were packaged for delivery to Africa. Also, C.A.R.E. received a major cleanup on floors and tables and our Deacons purchased new shelving for food in order to facilitate easier storage and distribution of food.
- In June, our church helped lead the Vacation Bible School ministry at Saron Lutheran Church.
- In July, the Fahey's took our Youth to Calvin Crest for Summer Camp and our youth's impact and high expectations are playing a leading role in helping Calvin Crest reshape its ministry focus for the future.
- In the Fall, Adult Ministries facilitated Traveling Companions projects with Scott Mayfield leading a few well-attended and enjoyable outings for congregational members.
- In October, Finance led our own stewardship focus, "First Fruits Sunday," which helped our church continue to see how our giving is an integral part of our faith in the Lord and the mission and ministry of our church.
- In December, the Trustees facilitated the demolition of the house next door in preparation for the next phase of our ministry – the planning of which has already begun.
- In December, the Deacons Christmas Tree project helped a number of needy local families.
- In December, our worship included wonderful presentations from our Children (Wise-Guys and Starry Skies), our Chancel Choir (accompanied by organ and string quartet) and a Christmas Eve service that included harp.
- The Presbytery of Stockton finished its last year as a part of the Sierra Mission Partnership. The Presbytery will begin its first year as a stand-alone Presbytery next year and is presently looking for a full-time Executive.
- Church Life gathered together our church family throughout the year – for a Summer Picnic at Van Allen School, a fall Kick-Off celebration at the church, our annual Harvest Party, and our annual Christmas Dinner at the Escalon Community Center.
- Oh – and finally, we gathered together weekly for the worship of the Triune God, children were taught God's word weekly in Sunday School, the youth group gathered on Wednesday's for Bible Study and fun, the adult bible studies and small groups met throughout the week, our Ministry Teams planned and served, we welcomed new life into the world, and celebrated the lives of those who went to be with the Lord.

Glory be to God for 2010.