

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



November 2009



PASTORAL MISCELLANIES

PASTOR TROY

This month I'd like to highlight a number of miscellaneous items that we should all be aware of, participate in and celebrate – so buckle your seat belts as I'm going to quickly shift gears without the clutch.

New Consecration Sunday

The Session would like to thank you for your participation in New Consecration Sunday – our annual Sunday where we highlight the biblical joy of giving and its relation to our own growth in faith in Christ. We would like to pass along the preliminary results of the events. To date we have received 47 estimate of giving cards that totaled \$169,650. Based on last year's giving records from those who consistently give, we can estimate to receive an additional \$51,605. Add supplemental income of \$7,423 and we can anticipate giving for the next twelve months to be \$228,687. This is a 13.2% increase over our giving for the previous twelve months. Thank you for your faithful giving to the mission and ministry of our church. Remember, you can always revise your estimate if circumstances and conditions should change. Our church lives and breathes by a important biblical word – grace. For more information on the event, see Michele Hood or Jerry Houglund.

Saturday Night Specials

Pay attention in the year ahead for a new and exciting, periodic event called "Saturday Night Specials." It is started by the Adult Ministries Team and it will be a series of evenings that will typically include a biblical topic followed by discussion or a movie viewing followed by Christian reflection on it. The first evening on November 7, sure to be the weakest of the series(!), will include a meal and the viewing and discussion of my Israel Trip pictures. The evening begins at 6:00 pm and should run to 8:00. Pay attention for future event announcements. For more details, see Margy Sawyer.

Annual Christmas Dinner

Mark your calendars for December 13, from 4 to 7 pm – our annual All-Church Christmas Dinner. Following the success of last year's event of close to 250 people,

we will be holding it again at the Escalon Community Center. This is an event in which we celebrate the grace by which we have been sustained as a church over the last year and look ahead to the new horizons of the next. It is an event filled with amazing food, music, conversation and laughter. Please join us this evening and know that you are welcome to invite visitors to this evening as well. For more details, see Carol Adams or Lorie Macsenti.

Zimbabwe First-Fruits Trip

Many of you have been participating in giving to our First Fruits ministry in Zimbabwe – where we partner with our members Josh and Virginia Giddens as they deliver food to hungry people in Zimbabwe. Well, Session has approved a visit to the Giddens, to support them, to see the ministry in action on the ground and to report back to the congregation the progress of this ministry. Jeff Jarchow, Greg Foulke and myself will travel to Zimbabwe in either February or April to see the Giddens. Please keep the preparations for this trip in your prayers. We are also inviting you to give towards the travel costs of this trip. Just mark "Zimbabwe Trip" in the memo line of your giving. For more information, see Dan Adams or Dick Nelson.

Trade As One – Just One

Lastly, as you consider your Christmas shopping this year, go to the homepage of our website and click on the post entitled "Trade As One – Just One." View the video posted there and consider participating in helping poor families through the means of your Christmas giving this year. If every church-goer in America made just "One" Free-Trade purchase it would lift "One" million families out of poverty for "One" whole year!

