
ESCALON PRES

The LORD is my light and my salvation...

October 2010

FIRST FRUITS IS ABOUT GOD AND US

Friends, this year the Session has approved October 17 as our annual Stewardship Sunday. We have entitled the Sunday – First Fruits Sunday. First Fruits is our own name, drawn from Deuteronomy 26, and our intent is that it stays this way year in and year out.

What we believe is important about Stewardship is encapsulated in Deuteronomy 26 and reflected in how we present it here at EPC. The principle of First Fruits is the call to give to God a percentage of the year's harvest, the "first" gatherings of the "fruit" of harvest. We do so because we first remember the grace God has first given us (26:5-11) and we do so because we are giving to the work of ministry which extends, importantly, to the needy among us (26:12-15). Then, we celebrate and rejoice in the harvest before we begin to put it to use (27:7).

This is simply what we will do on First Fruits Sunday. We are reminded by a sermon that the importance of giving is related to the grace of God first, and then the need of the church to reach out to the world. We offer, in the form of commitment cards, our "First Fruits" at the conclusion of our worship service. (The pledge is a private act, it is kept confidential with the Treasurer only, and it can be changed at any time). Then we celebrate the harvest together with a meal because we always should live in gratitude for all of God's provisions in our lives.

So, when we encourage all families to participate in First Fruits Sunday it's not that the bottom financial line can be increased. This is not a telethon. This is not spiritual manipulation for funds. This is a community gathering together to continue its firm belief and support of the mission and ministry of our church – because of our faith in the Lord. Yet, we are not sitting on our hands. Our needs are growing and our goals expanding. You should know that the church leadership is developing a strategic plan for the future – particularly for the increase of children in our ministry. How we use the harvest matters to God as well.

The harvest will be what it will be, and, as we all know, harvests are sometimes good or sometimes not-so-good.

The importance is that whether or not some of us are experiencing a good harvest or a difficult harvest of financial resources – we are all part of this church and we stand together. Some of us may not be able to give what we'd like to give (which is understandable), others may be able to give more. That is up to each of you personally. The only question to be asked is whether you are giving the "first" of your "fruits." The amount doesn't matter. It's the obedience of faith to God first that matters.

You are all important to this church. I trust that our church is important to you. I encourage you to let the word of the Lord challenge you in this area (He wants you to trust him in this). Let's gather together joyfully on October 17 as a community of faith and commit our First Fruits to the Lord, remembering what he has first done for us, remembering that our mission is to show Christ to all who are in need. And finally, let us celebrate together that God has provided for us faithfully in all seasons. We are excited to see what God could do in and through us on our journey of faith ahead! 🙏



● ● ●
October 17, 2010

First time preaching with us
Rev. Jack McNary

First Fruits
Celebration Luncheon
Following Worship

● ● ●

EPC MINISTRY TEAMS

Please contact the representative below with any ministry related questions or inquiries.

ELDERS

Adult Ministries

Margy Sawyer, Sean Dodge

Youth Ministries

Sandy Thompson, Ellen Nelson

Church Life

Carol Adams, Lorie Macsenti

Finance Chair

Jerry Hougland

Stewardship

Jerry Hougland, Steve Reader

Mission Outreach

Dan Adams, Jeff Jarchow

Trustees

Bob McCune, Rick Jones

DEACONS

Chair

Dave Hall

Vice Chair

Tom Love

Prayer Concerns

Cheryl Hall

Shepherding

Marsha Love, Charlie Dodge

Sunshine

Pat Brown

Communion

Patti Farhat, Ruth Paz

Flowers

Charlie Dodge, Pat Brown

Lay Leaders

Charlie Dodge, Pat Brown

Greeters

Grant Thompson

C.A.R.E./Outreach

Dave Hall, Tom Love

STAFF

PASTOR

Troy J. Onsager

MUSIC MINISTRY

Joel Adams, Director

Dr. David E. Jolliff, Organist

YOUTH MINISTRY

Mike Fahey

SECRETARY/CUSTODIAN

Linda Hagen, Secretary

Laura Alcantor, Custodian

SEPTEMBER SESSION NOTES

Session met in the Fireside Room on Tuesday, September 21, 2010. The Rev. Troy Onsager opened with prayer at 7:02 pm.

Business:

Finance

There is a good possibility of closing the property loan by year end if further donations received. Our third year of stewardship pledging will be titled "First Fruits". The invitation was presented, along with some modifications from previous presentations, to Session and was approved. 2011 budget plans were requested from each Ministry Team on/ before next Session Meeting in October.

Youth Ministry

New Faith Based activity bags were provided thru Youth Ministry Team for the children remaining in the Sanctuary for services. Focus is on the 1st thru 6th graders. Youth Ministry suggests occasionally having all youth get together once every 4 to 6 weeks for a movie and discussion during services on Sunday. Upcoming considerations – Talent Show, Father/Daughter Dance, a fundraiser for Calvin Crest Camp, and a gently used Coat/Sweater Drive, as well.

Trustees

Air Quality report identified asbestos in the house and additional abatement action will be required of us for any harvesting and/or demolition plans. It was recommended to move forward with the current abatement and confirm available funds and project timing with the Treasurer prior to any harvest donation(s) and/or scheduling of demolition.

Troy presented

- Mervin & Stephanie Bruns and Linda Vermeulen to be presented for new membership. MSC
- Stockton Presbytery is moving forward with establishing replacement for Sierra Mission Partnership. A search for the Executive Presbyter has begun.
- 219th General Assembly Action Items – were presented separately for edification and discussion.

On Pastor's Calendar:

Synod PJC Hearing – Oakland 09/21

Healthy Congregations Training 09/28-29

Institute for Pastoral Leadership – Princeton 10/11-15

Who is My Neighbor Conference 10/15 & 10/16

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Hood 🙏

DEACON MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 MEETING

Community Help:

The C.A.R.E. Program focus food for October 3rd will be canned vegetables. We will also be happy to accept any other non-perishable foods you would like to donate. Thank you for your support!

The Deacons have made a monetary contribution to the local "Love Escalon" event. This event will be held on Saturday, October 16th. This one-day event is for residents in our community that are struggling financially. Some of the items that will be passed out are clothes, food, hygiene products and household cleaning supplies. There will also be a free lunch that day. A flyer will be available and posted at EPC.

Deacon Activities:

The Annual Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, October 2nd. This is one of the main fundraisers for the Deacons and also a wonderful way to connect with those who live in our community. Thank you for your donations, whether by helping before or during the sale, donating items we can sell or donating funds to the Deacons. We

appreciate how much this congregation demonstrates their love and care for each other and this community by their actions.

Salvation Army:

The Salvation Army dates have been picked and the Deacons have added a fourth night to this ministry. All dates will be on Saturdays and they are January 29th, February 26th, March 19th and April 9th. We will be looking for Team Leaders for each date to choose the menu, purchase foods for the meal, help cook the meal, and organize the volunteers and their jobs. If you are interested please see Dave Hall or one of the Deacons.

Deacon of the Month for October will be Cheryl Hall.

The next Deacon Meeting will be Wednesday, October 20 at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room. (This is a one-time change from Thursday to Wednesday.)

Please feel free to contact your Deacon if you or your family needs help or prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Hall, Deacon Secretary 🙏

EPC TRAVEL COMPANIONS TRIP

Twelve adults from Escalon Presbyterian recently traveled to Sacramento to tour the newly restored governor's mansion and gardens. The three story mansions' architectural style is Second Empire and was built in 1877. It was later purchased by the State of California in 1903 for \$32,500 and served as the official residence for 12 California governors including Ronald Reagan.

The EPC Travel Companions, led by Scott Mayfield, toured two floors of the Victorian viewing its 14-foot ceilings, crystal chandeliers, ornate moldings, the State china, Italian marble fireplaces, and Persian carpets. Following their guided tour the group luncheoned at the Old Spaghetti Factory enchantingly found in the former 'J' Street rail station.

A good time was had by all and our next Travel Compan-

ions road adventure is tentatively scheduled for the Fall/Winter of 2010 and will include visits to Stockton's Cathedral of Saint Mary's of the Annunciation and the Haggin Museum of Art, History and Industry.

Details to come. 🙏



CHURCH NURSERY PROGRAM CHILDREN IN CHURCH

Our worship time nursery is staffed with many people who serve by volunteering their time once every couple of months. We continue to screen all our volunteers and provide training when needed. We have a check-in pager program which allows us to have contact with all of our parents who entrust their children to our care. Nursery care is available to children from infant through 6 years old. As we are always interested in improving our nursery safety and effectiveness, please talk to us if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Available Nursery Care

- Nursery care is available during Sunday School for infants – 3 years of age **only** for parents who are attending or working in the Sunday School.
- Nursery care is available during Worship Service for infants – 6 years of age.

We're realizing that many of our older children are in

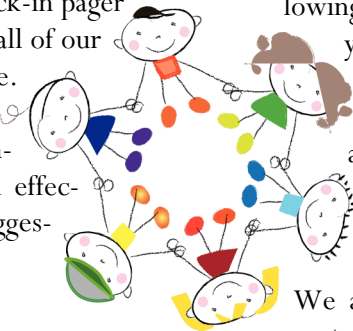
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has begun again. We are excited about the coming year. Our Sunday School has classes for children 3 years through High School. Children through 6th grade meet in the choir room at 9:15 am for opening singing and then go to their classes from 9:30 – 10:15 am.

Our 7th – 12th grade students meet in the Youth Room at 9:30 am. Join us for lively discussions as we apply God's Word to our everyday life.

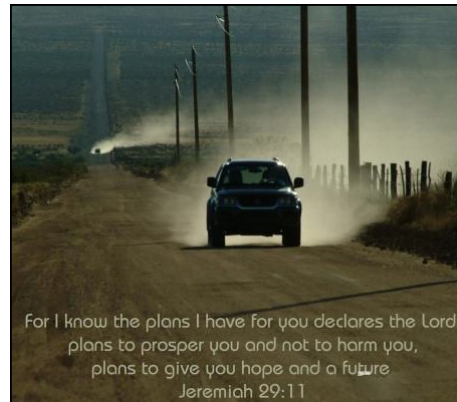
We believe we have a great program including our Bible verse memorization program, Christmas program and special events. Our teachers and helpers are devoted and enthusiastic about teaching God's Word. If you are interested in assisting in any area of our program, please let us know. 🙏

church now, and we are attempting to provide items during worship which will make their time easier for both parents and children. Special bags will be provided following the Children's Time each week. Each young attendee will have their own bag. They will be filled with items that should help "the time go by." Extra bags will also be provided for visiting children. We are hopeful these will be used and appreciated.



We also recognize that there are special circumstances which might require that your older child be in the nursery care. If such a need arises please let us know as our biggest concern is for you and your children. We love your input; please feel free to contact us anytime. 🙏

COLLEGE AGE GROUP



Please join us as we all start a new year of fun together at:

Don & Janet Nickerson
483 Palomino Court
Escalon, CA

Our bible studies will be thought-provoking and your input is much desired. Come join us as we plan a calendar of topics and activities.

Our regular meetings will be Sundays at the Nickerson's from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

Questions? Contact:

Sandy & Grant Thompson – 943-0774 or
Don & Janet Nickerson – 838-7945. 🙏

COMMUNITY
COMMUNION SERVICE
ESCALON COVENANT CHURCH
OCTOBER 3 2010 - 6:30 PM

Please join the churches of Escalon in celebrating Communion together on World Communion Sunday.

We will gather together at 6:30 pm at the Escalon Covenant Church, where we will worship together, hear a message from Pastor Bruce Persenaire (Christian Reformed) and celebrate the Lord's Supper together.

Please join us for this important event for the body of Christ in Escalon. 🙏

ZIMBABWE EVENING
OCTOBER 9, 2010

It's finally here!

On October 9, 2010, the Zimbabwe Team will present a full multi-media presentation of our February trip to Zimbabwe to visit our friends and view the food ministry to the village that we've been sponsoring. Join us that evening for food and full presentation and description of our next steps for the First Fruits Zimbabwe mission. 🙏



HELP SUPPORT EPC YOUTH

For anyone who would like to help we have a sign-up sheet available.

- We need snacks for the weekly Wednesday night meetings. The students love desserts, cupcakes, cookies, ice cream..... Please contact Mike Fahey or Sandy Thompson if you can help.
- Transportation help is needed every once in awhile. Please let Mike or Sandy know or contact the church office if you can help.

We appreciate any and all your help. Thank You! 🙏

LOVE ESCALON
OCTOBER 16, 2010

Love Escalon will present its first community-wide support event October 16, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, at the Trinity Church in Escalon.

The event will be one in which clothes, house-cleaning products, hygiene products, groceries, and lunch will be given to Escalon residents who are in need.

Love
Escalon

If you would like to help with the event please call Sara to volunteer, 324-9124 .

If you are someone in need or you know someone who could use some or all of the "give-aways" offered in this event, please let them know that registration is required. They may register by calling, 838-3000. 🙏

HARVEST PARTY
CHILI COOK-OFF

THOMPSONS RANCH
OCTOBER 31, 2010 - 3:00 PM

Chili will be judged at 4:30 pm, and eating will directly follow.

Please sign up in the faith center for the following items:

- Corn Bread
- Chili
- Salad
- Dessert & Candy
- Cake Walk Items

There will be fun games for all ages!

All are welcome to wear their best costume!

THOSE WHO SERVE

WELCOME

Margy Sawyer

TRUSTEES

Oct 3 Bob McCune

Oct 10 Wayne Engel

Oct 17 Rick Guevara

Oct 24 Randy Schmidt

Oct 31 Rick Jones

GREETERS

Oct 3 Victor & Ruth Paz

Oct 10 Randy & Nancy Schmidt

Oct 17 Sunday School Students

Oct 24 Patti Farhat, Grant & Sandy Thompson

Oct 31 John & Dee Mostowski

LAY LEADERS

Oct 3 Steve Reader

Oct 10 Bob Whitt

Oct 17 Toney Rose

Oct 24 Pat Brown

Oct 31 Ira Pearson

SOUND TEAM

Oct 3 Bob McCune

Oct 10 Dave Hall

Oct 17 Rick Guevara

Oct 24 Bob McCune

Oct 31 Rick Jones

NURSERY TEAM

Oct 3 Margy, Carol, Sandy, Gavin, Spencer A.

Oct 10 Rick & Angie, Charlie, Mikena, Spencer R.

Oct 17 Sal & Michelle, Dee, Bianca, Tanner

Oct 24 Vanessa, April, Lisa, Jayne Marissa, Jennifer

Oct 31 Leslie, Julie, Ellen, Gavin, Spencer A.

FELLOWSHIP

Oct 3 The Sawyer Family

Oct 10 Foulke Wedding Reception

Oct 17 First Fruits Luncheon

Oct 24 Greg & Nell Foulke

Oct 31 Linda Gentry

COMMUNION TEAM

Dan Adams, Carol Adams,

Jerry Hougland, Margy Sawyer

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Cheryl Hall

ASSISTANT COUNTER

Bob McCune

PRAYER TEAM

Dan Adams, Elaine Holt

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

October 1 Eric Hougland
October 2 Melody Wilkerson
October 3 Allie (Wilkerson) Wilson &
Bill Anderson
October 4 Margy Sawyer
October 5 Kaili Jericoff
October 6 Eric Holderman
October 7 Dan Adams & Emily Dodge
October 8 Leslie Onsager
October 9 Ben Ferreira
October 12 Jason Jericoff
October 17 Roberta Ohland & Stephanie Bruns
October 18 John Poole
October 20 Barbara Jones
October 21 Emma Lewis
October 22 Cindy Byrd & Jacob Sipes
October 23 Zola Pritchard
October 26 Dicksie Woodward &
Kinsley Severson
October 27 Marvin Schmidt
October 28 Chris Sandoval

Anniversaries

October 3 Frank & Jo Wheeler
October 5 Chris & Jennifer Thompson
October 18 Bob & Marilyn Golden
October 22 Pastor Troy & Leslie Onsager

Escalon Presbyterian Church

Financial Status August 2010 – General Fund

Income

Actual Income \$20,351
Budget Income \$18,280
Over (under) Budget \$ 2,071

Expense

Actual Expense \$11,807
Budget Expense \$18,280
Over (under) Budget \$(6,473)

October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1		2	3
			4		5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24/31	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Notes:

- Annual Deacon Yard Sale Saturday October 2 / Faith Center
- Men With A Mission will not be meeting until next year
- Saturday Night Special / Zimbabwe Presentation - October 9, 6:00 pm / Faith Center
- Deacons will meet this month on Wednesday October 20 instead of their usual second Thursday
- Pastor Troy out of the office October 11-15 - Leadership Institute & Global Church Conference
- Annual Harvest Party & Chili Cook-Off - October 31 / 3:00 pm / Thompsons Ranch
- College Age Class will not meet on October 31

ESCALON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1612 First Street
Escalon, CA 95320

Pastor Troy Onsager
209 838-2798

www.escalonpres.org
escalonpres@gmail.com



October 9, 2010

**Zimbabwe
Presentation**

6:00 pm

Faith Center



**WELCOME
TO
ZIMBABWE**

October 31, 2010

**Harvest Party &
Chili Cook-Off**

Thompsons Ranch

3:00 - 6:00 pm

