



# First Pres Challenger

WORSHIP *grow*  
SERVE

Equipping the Family of God at First Presbyterian Church, Fresno

July 2005

## Welcome New Members!



**Gertrude Aldredge**  
(Pictured with daughter, Lana Roberts)

Gertrude has a daughter and son-in-law (Lana and Brian Roberts),

and two grandchildren, Brandon and Kaylan Roberts. She moved to Fresno from Hanford and started coming to First Pres with family members. (Her daughter, Lana, is the Director of Worship Arts at First Pres.) Her hobbies include playing bridge and watercolor painting. She also volunteers at St. Agnes Hospital and the Metropolitan Museum.

**Steve and Cindy Amorino**



Cindy (Smades-Klein) started attending First Pres because of her

friend, Dwight Trowbridge. Steve and Cindy were married at First Pres on Dec. 18, 2004. They enjoy the worship, Word and pastors. Steve has two children from a prior marriage, Stacey, 24, and Anthony, 11.

Cindy is a licensed realtor and currently works for London Properties. Her interests include daily reading of scripture and prayer, internet research, horses, cross country skiing, running

and Pilates. She also enjoys getting to know older people to gain wisdom from them.

Steve is a branch manager for Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. He enjoys his daily scripture reading and outdoor exercise like running, tennis and cross country skiing.

Cindy adds, "Christ has blessed me since I took my first breath. This page is too small for me to begin to express all my blessings. Jesus is present in my life when I wake up, go to sleep and all day long."

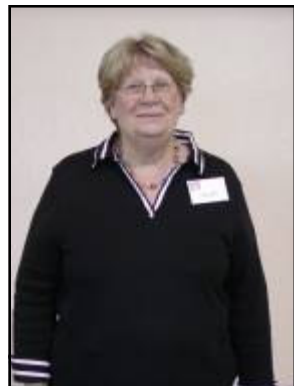


**Paul and Megan Butts**

Paul and Megan live in Yosemite Lakes Park in Coarsegold. Paul is retired and Megan

is a marketing services manager for Equipment Parts Wholesale in Fresno. They enjoy golfing and sailing together. Paul is an actor and singer and is very active in local theater productions with Roger Rocka's, Second Space and Center Stage in Clovis.

**Betty Glick**



Betty is a homemaker who does volunteer work for the Assistance League and the Oakland Museum. She also en-

joys bridge, reading, music and travel. She is a widow and has a daughter in Fresno and a son in Houston, Texas. She also has two granddaughters, both attending college in Fresno. After she moved to Fresno, she began looking for a church home and found First Pres. She was able to get to know some peo-

ple by hosting one of the Suppers for Seven.

**William Gould**



Bill is from Chicago where his wife continues to live in their home. He came to Fresno to

work as an engineer in the specialty field of explosion-resistant doors and windows. He also has a son, Geoffrey, married to Rose Marie, a daughter, Ann, married to Gary, and a granddaughter, Emma. He came to First Pres

on a referral from a pastor in Chicago. He has been a member of Presbyterian USA for 40 years.

**Torsten Grünberg**



Torsten is a "domestic engineer" and is married to Janelle. They have three children, Kollin, Kayla and Kyana (Yana). He enjoys his family and house, building and fixing things,

power tools, fishing and golf. He has been attending First Pres

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with his wife for about 12 years and credits “the members of the congregation for leading me to my faith in Christ.

Thank you!!”

### **Craig and Ruth Hill**

Craig and Ruth have two children, Chris, 23, currently a Networker at First Pres, and Jennifer, 17, a student at Simpson University. Craig is a sales manager for Big O Tires and Ruth is a homemaker with a home-based business as a Pampered Chef consultant.

Craig likes camping, basketball, baseball, football and golf. He came to First Pres because of the Bible teaching and the reputation of the church.



Ruth enjoys scrapbooking, camping, gardening and Awanas. She came to First Pres because she needed a church with a strong Biblical

foundation and pastoral shepherding.

### **Annette LaRue**

Annette is a retired Superior Court judge in Fresno County. She is a widow with one son, Frank Bailey. She likes gardening and reading and enjoys the good music and preaching at First Pres.



### **Bob and Mary Ellen Lung**

Bob and Mary Ellen have two

daughters, Janelle Grünberg, married to Torsten, and Leslie Dau, married to Fred. They have six grandchildren, Kollin, Kayla and Kyana Grünberg, and Emily, William and Neil Dau.

Bob is retired and enjoys playing golf. Mary Ellen is also retired and likes to spend time with her family (especially her grandchildren), walking, camping, baking and reading.

They originally started attending because their children were members, but “it didn’t take long to realize what a special church this is. The caring staff and friendly congregation make you feel welcome immediately.”

Bob has a desire to become a



stronger Christian. Mary Ellen wrote, “It is very evident the Lord

led us to First Pres. There are so many different opportunities for service. I am also looking forward to furthering my spiritual walk with God.”

### **William and Helen Lung**

Bill and Helen recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary. They have two sons, Robert and Stanley, 14 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and 5 great, great grandchildren. Bill is a retired merchant, farmer and railroad worker. He enjoys fishing, yard care and serving Jesus. He wrote, “We feel the spirit of Christ with us at all times and go to church to refresh our belief and help others not to forget.”



Helen is a retired clerk and homemaker. She likes to knit, sew and bake. She states, “I was raised believing Christ was the only way and still believe in Him and the Holy Spirit.”

Bill and Helen followed their children and grandchildren to First Pres.

### **Sharon McCammack**

Sharon is single and works in customer service for the City of Fresno. Her interests include singing and music, animals, history and geneology, movies and live performances. She is also a baseball and football fan.

She first came to First Pres to sing for the Christmas program in 2003.

She started attending regularly that summer and was invited to join the choir by Julie Carter. She likes the worship and pastors. She adds, “It felt like home. I look forward to attending and serving the Lord at First Pres.”



### **Ron and Angela Paul**

Ron and Angela were married at First Pres in 1953. They have three sons, Ronald, Brian and Stephen, and two grandsons, John and Spencer. Ron is a retired rancher/grower who currently works part time for Bouquet of Fruits. He also enjoys art and cartooning. Angela is a homemaker who likes art and gardening.

Angela transferred her membership from Knox Presbyterian in L.A. She writes that she has experienced “many

## A Great Cloud of Examples

By Terry Jaurena, Mission/College Director

blessings in my life. I am growing spiritually more and more. This church has been a true blessing to the Lord. I found the Word of our Dear Lord” on trip bound for Eastern Europe. It was the summer of 1985, in the days when communism’s grip on Eastern Europe meant I couldn’t say exactly which countries I’d be going to. Barbara, who used to be Brumm and is now Knepper, was my roommate at the time. She loved to say, “Terry can’t tell you where she’s going but she’s reading a book entitled *Poland*.” I was, and it was indeed one of the countries I went to that summer.

Since we came from all over the U.S., our team gathered together first in Wheaton for orientation. Then we traveled to Austria and had even more training from the missionaries who were hosting and responsible for us in Austria. During that prep time we had some outings and adventures. One of them was a hike in the Alps. I was recently reminded of something the Lord wrote on my heart that day in the Alps. I share it now in hopes it will mean something to you.

The 16 team members who hit the trail that day were not of the same hiking ability or level of physical fitness. Those who were more able got way out in front of the three or so who were less able. You might guess that I was in the “less able” group. Our pace was slower and we stopped more often. One in our group was really struggling because of a chronic digestive condition.

Tom Albinson was our host missionary leader. Accustomed to the altitude and into hiking, he could have been the first one to the top of the mountain. But he stayed back with our little group and encouraged us along the way. He told us of the bench that was just up the way. It became our short-term goal. And when the guy with the medical condition really needed water, he ran up the hill to the top where all the rest of our team was enjoying the view and

brought some back. Eventually, we all made it, enjoying the view and lunch on the picnic bench that was waiting all the time we struggled.

Tom’s gracious encouragement, his act of going on and coming back to lend help, is etched in my heart as a great example of servant leadership. It was a very Jesus-like thing to do.

It was while I was thanking God and praying for some of our mission partners that I was reminded of my Alpine hiking lesson. You see, there are several of our mission partners who could have gone on ahead of their people to enjoy not only their life in Christ, but also a nice, comfortable life in the U.S. They have chosen instead to do a very Jesus-like thing. They went or they keep going back to encourage, build up and rescue their kinsmen and women, to make sure they find the Jesus way and the feast and the view that is waiting while they struggle.

Philip Prasad came to the U.S. from India. He met his wife Elizabeth at a Christian college. At some point, however, his following of Jesus lead him back to where his father had preached the gospel and he keeps going back. The multifaceted ministries of the Rural Presbyterian Church of India were born out of his servant leadership.

Minus Hiruy is Ethiopian. He had a nice life and a nice job at Penn State when his walk with the Lord lead him back to Ethiopia. There he serves as the director of an organization called Hope Enterprises which feeds the poor, trains men and women for jobs, provides schooling and homes for children, to name just a few.

Hannaniah and Betty Zoe are from Liberia. It’s as war-torn as many other African nations. They could have stayed in Sacramento,

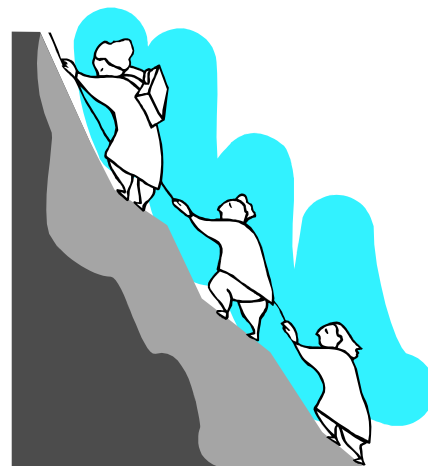
but they have returned to a land they fled for their safety because he was asked to run for the presidency.

Marcus Zemedede is a medical doctor here in Fresno. He is also Ethiopian. Along with others from the Ethiopian church he attended in San Jose, he started Horn of Africa Mission. They support national evangelists and church planters who are reaching out in Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan.

Not unlike the writer of Hebrews, time does not permit me to continue to tell you about all of the great cloud of sacrificial servant leader examples. These are just a few.

Etched as a “life verse” for me that same summer in Eastern Europe was Hosea 6:3: “*So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord. His going forth is as certain as the dawn. And he will come to us like the rain. Like the spring rain watering the earth.*” (NASB)

Even while showing me that verse the Lord was also showing me that I couldn’t just press on for my own sake, just to enjoy the view and the spiritual feast. It is so I can be strengthened for my journey back down to help, encourage, rescue or revive those who are struggling while the feast is waiting. While you press on, don’t forget to look back and see whom you can help get to where you’re going, too.



## Guidelines for Legal Actions

By Jamie Evans, Senior Pastor

For those of us who have been caught up in the nightmare of a legal suit in civil court, Paul's words in I Corinthians 6:1-8 are mesmerizing. He chastises his new Corinthian flock for hauling one another, fellows in Christ, into pagan Roman court to sue one another over business dealings that have gone awry. Paul is aghast! Here the pagan culture sees the dirty laundry of the church and evangelism suffers as a consequence. Paul exclaims, "*The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means that you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged?*" Paul would prefer to see individual Christians lose in a business deal than demonstrate to the pre-Christian population at large that the Grace of Christ has yet to be life changing in the hearts of His flock.

For Paul this was simple logic - evangelism came before financial gain and individual rights. The Apostle to the Gentiles had long before given up his family holdings and wealth from an endowed clan, for he would have been culturally and finan-

cially cut off at his conversion. He lives leanly and simply with few material impediments, that he might be all the more effective in ministry.

Paul stands therefore against the Corinthian practice of taking private financial brawls into the pagan line of sight. Christians must not sue Christians in open court. Does this mean we will today not have conflict with one another? By no means, but Paul alludes to his hope that we will choose from among ourselves judges, those having discernment and unbendable integrity, to arbitrate our disputes from within the church itself. In our congregation we have Judge Lee, Judge Hamlin, Judge LaRue and Judge Jones to name just a few of the wise and impartial who could stand in quiet settings to mediate our communal disputes behind the walls of the church, that no pre-Christian might stumble upon hearing of our issues.

Now Paul did not outlaw all suits. He himself will sue to Caesar for *self defense* against his Jewish opponents who wanted him dead. The Bible calls this an Appeal to the Emperor.

Self-defense is a worthy goal since our lives are not cheap but worthy of defending. Also we see for the sake of *justice* suits being used in Solomon's time to protect a baby who is at risk of losing his birth mother. Amnesty International and International Justice Ministry uses such justice suits for the protection internationally of those oppressed. These are legitimate.

But suits aimed at the *creation of wealth* or *personal gain* must be avoided. According to statistics from the 1990s, suits were the number two generator of personal wealth outside of the work force in this nation, led only by inheritance. Suits also that aim at *revenge* remain Biblically inappropriate. How many protracted divorces have we seen that churn out the bile of resentment as a weapon used against a disappointed spouse, sometimes battling for years. Even children become pawns and tools in this marital slugfest. We Christians must ask ourselves the difference between what is "legal" and what is "moral", what is allowed and what is healthy for our heart and witness.

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## Church Camping Trip

By Barbara Grunwald

Have you been looking for an opportunity to spend relaxed, uninterrupted time with other people from First Pres? The best opportunity I know is the church camping trip, which is the weekend of July 29-31.

This year we will be camping at Aspen Hollow, a group campground near Hume Lake in the Sequoia National Forest. It's an ideal location for us because the group area is the entire campground. This means that the adults can relax and allow the children to run around the campground as they wish, without the adults worrying about the children getting lost or ending up with strangers in another part of the campground.

There's plenty of room in the

campground for tents to be set up in just about any location. The campground was remodeled a few years ago, and now has a few level driveways (but no hookups of any kind) for tent trailers, campers and small RVs, including one handicap-accessible site. There's also one handicap-accessible tent site.

The campground has a paved circular road, so many children bring their bikes or scooters to ride around the campground.

We arrive on Friday evening in time for a potluck dinner. It does cost a little more than gas to get there (a two-hour drive from Fresno) because we have to go through Kings Canyon National

Park (\$10 entrance fee, good for 7 days).

Once we're there and set up, the main activities in the campground are talking, singing, playing cards or other games, and the like. The committee buys the food ahead of time, so we share cooking duties and all eat together. We have simple food such as pancakes, sack lunches and spaghetti. The specific menu for this year will be available ahead of time.

On Saturday, most people leave the campground for activities elsewhere. Some go to Hume Lake to swim, fish or rent paddleboats. Others go on hikes near the campground or the lake. Still others drive to

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## A Few Items of Note

By Susan Glover, Administrator

It's time for a little housekeeping review:

- Our little red lost and found cart outside the library is so lonely. It never gets any attention, just dumped on! If you have lost anything and think it might have disappeared at church, please visit the little red cart.
- The Fellowship Hall kitchen is another area that needs a visit. It seems to grow items on the shelf under the chopping block table, and some things have developed legs and taken a walk. Please check items you might have taken home following an event to be sure they are yours. If they are not, return them to the place you found them. There will be no fines or harsh words.
- WOW, look at the refrigerator! What science fair projects are we supporting? Please have an exit plan for all items not used at the event for which they were purchased. Do not assume the next event wants your leftovers or the staff can eat them. Look at us - do any of us look undernourished? Besides, we have Jamie's candy basket full of chocolate. The Evangel Home or the Rescue Mission like to receive good leftovers or extras, but you have to make those arrangements in advance and have a plan to deliver them.
- The administration office is another place of magical, disappearing acts. We lose scissors, staplers, pencils and pens. Please be thoughtful and immediately replace the items you borrow. We are dependant on our tools during the work week also.
- Posters for events. Please do not tape to painted surfaces! We cannot remove them without peeling the paint. Inside on bulletin boards, or taped to a window is fine. What happens to these posters after the event? You will need to return and remove them and any tape residue.
- Something to ponder. When flowers are brought to the church for an event, how would you like to have them used after the event? Many times large, beautiful bouquets are left to die in a room that is not used again for several days. In the summer with no air conditioning on that means instant loss. Perhaps it would be good to also have an exit plan to share the beauty with a shut-in or facility that needs a hug. Again, those who plan the event need to take charge of that plan. Our staff does not have the time to figure out those logistics and execute a plan. We are sad every time the custodians have to throw away beautiful flowers.

We are a busy church and our facilities require a lot of maintenance along with many room set-up changes. If we do not all do our part, our custodians will not be able to keep the rooms as clean as we would like. We owe a big thank you to the church care team for all the time donated to care for our property: Charlie Schuler, John Cotton, Bob Smith, Del Edwards, Jim Dice, Dean Lloyd and Robert Wood.

The main thing is that we are family and this is God's house. We are the trusted custodians, so let's bless Him with good stewardship.

### *Continued from Page 4*

destinations in Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest.

On Sunday morning, we have a short worship service including Communion. That ends the official weekend, but sometimes we have enough food left over to stay for lunch.

For those who have never camped but would like to try it, the church camping trip is an ideal way to begin. People who can't go will loan out their tents and novice campers have all the help they need to set up. Since we cook together, individual families don't need to bring any cooking gear or food (always the hardest part of a camping trip). And, most importantly, we come home feeling much better acquainted with the other families who attend!

Signups will be on the church lawn on July 10, 17 and 24. A small fee is charged to cover the cost of the campground reservation and the food and paper supplies. If the fee raises difficulties, please contact Lana Roberts in the church office. For questions before the signup dates, potential campers should contact a member of the committee: Jim and Barb Grunwald (297-9137), Gary and Sherri Duran (222-6061) and Bret and Lisa Rush (277-9061).

### **Session Report**

**By Scott McCallum**

The May financial report: Giving was below budget (2.48 percent); spending was below budget (10 percent); cash available for operations is approximately two months of budgeted spending.

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

Church office will be closed on July 4.

Long Range Planning Prayer time, July 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Come to the First Pres fireworks booth July 1-4 at the Albertson's on Blackstone & Clinton.

*In God We Trust Music Festival*, July 30.

Father-Son Event, July 15-16.

Women's Retreat Bake Sale, Aug. 7

## Deadline Information

The deadline for the August issue of *The Challenger* is Friday, July 22 at 5 p.m. It will be mailed out Aug. 4. Please submit articles to Daphne Saul (252-4064), daphne4926@sbcglobal.net or leave in newsletter box in office.

The deadline for "A Place for You" is each Monday at 5 p.m. Please submit announcements to Cheryl Eaker (485-6460), via email at ceaker@fpcfresno.org.

## First Pres Challenger

### July 2005

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Return service requested

# For Your Information

## The Principal Family Fun Fest

Principal Financial Group is sponsoring a FREE Fun Fest at Grizzlies Stadium on July 10.

The game vs. the Sacramento River Cats starts at 6:05 p.m., but you can come up to three hours early to enjoy:

- \* The minor league baseball museum
- \* The video game trailer
- \* Batting and pitching cages
- \* The bungee run and giant slide
- \* Customized baseball cards

## Blood Drive

Please give a pint for a pint on Aug. 7, at the EOC Sanctuary, 2336 N. Calaveras. Donors can make an appointment between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Call 224-2627 or e-mail oneifamily4@aol.com for your desired appointment time.

## WHERE IS THE GOD OF HEAVEN? and why is he taking so long? (A Manuscript Study of the Book of Habakkuk)

Dear Friend,

Please join us for a one-day manuscript study of the Old Testament book of Habakkuk. This book has an incredibly relevant message for Fresno as it struggles with violence and injustice. This is the twelfth year that the Institute has probed its depths. Back by popular demand! Manuscript study is fresh, intense, exciting and a skill that will serve you forever.

**DATE:** Saturday, July 9, 2005

**TIME:** 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Evangelicals for Social Action (680 E. Shaw, Baptist Building across from Fashion Fair Mall)

**BRING:** Colored pens or pencils

**COST:** \$12 (includes lunch)

**Advance Phone  
Registration Required  
Deadline: July 5  
Call: Tina White at  
497-8739**

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