

Jason Locke has been our preaching minister since 2009.

Minister's Message



Last week's Harvest Day offering was a glorious reminder of God's faithful provision. Over \$52,000 has already been given or pledged to our mission works. Additional gifts will trickle in to put us closer to our goal of \$64,500. This will allow us to fully fund our long-term efforts and provide major funding for our short-term trips. God is good!

Jesus is the light of the world. The Bible says that he came into the world to shine light into darkness. What does this talk about light darkness actually mean?

Light is a metaphor for everything that is good, while darkness is a metaphor for what is not good. Although God created this world to be good, the human experience has become an exercise

in futility for most people. This is a great irony. Despair and disappointment are the hallmarks of our modern societies, even though folks today seemingly have it so much better than in previous centuries.

Jesus brings hope, joy and peace into the world. Those of us who know Jesus can experience a true happiness that goes beyond the illusory pleasures of the world. It is as if Jesus brings light into our lives, illuminating things for what they truly are. He helps us see what is good.

At this time of year, we give thanks for the arrival of Jesus. We give thanks for the light that he brings. And we pray that his light might spread in a darkened world.

College Church of Christ

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Welcome! If you are **visiting** with us today, please give us your name & contact information on *the card below*. **Tear it off and place it in the offering basket** later in the service. We invite you to experience God's grace among us and to think about finding your place in this fellowship of believers.

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Prayer Request: _____

Comments: _____

People, Times & Places

MINISTERS & STAFF

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Mountain View Christian School

is a church-affiliated pre-school, day care, and primary school (K-6) that uses part of our facility. It operates under its own board, most of whom are members of our church. For info about enrollment, call 435-2923.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00-10:20 AM

During worship, a **Staffed Nursery** is available for children from birth to 2 years of age. That room is off the foyer.

Kids from kindergarten to 6th grade will be invited to participate in children's church, called **PowerUp**, during the second half of worship. They will be dismissed with their chaperones at about 9:30.

SUNDAY CLASSES

10:30-11:30 AM

Adult Groups

College Age	Rm 500
Drury	Rm 305
Button/Watson	Fellowship Hall
Rodriguez	Rm 411
Smith	Rm 405
Wint	Rm 406
Sue	Auditorium

Children & Youth

2-3 Years	Rm 103
4-5 Years	Rm 104
Kinder/1st Grade	Rm 205
2nd/3rd Grade	Rm 206
4th/5th Grade	Rm 203
6th Grade	Rm 307
Junior High	Rm 600
High School	Rm 600

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

6:30-7:30 PM

Life of David	Rm 411
Ten Commandments	Rm 305
Prayer Group	Rm 406
College Age	Rm 500
Overcomer's Outreach	Rm 700
Disabled Support	Rm 211
Teens	Rm 600
Kids	Children's Wing



The College Church is God's safe house, a place where you can find refuge and care. Instead of judgment, you will experience the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works—he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.
(Ps 104:31-32)

After the sermon, we will have a "Time of Response." Various folks will be available to talk or pray. Others will be available to assist. You can respond by moving to one of the aisles.

Today's Order of Worship

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Call to Worship ~ Jason Locke

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Come Worship Christ the King

God Who Comes to Save

We Will Worship You

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Communion ~ David Douglass

Breath of Heaven

Let Every Heart Rejoice and Sing

Message ~ Jason Locke

"The Faithful Response to God's Creation"

Text ~ Psalm 104:25-35

Time of Response ~ Doug Baker

Glory to God

Offering ~ Fausto Hinojosa

Shout to the Lord

Closing Blessing

December 11, 2011

Shepherding Group News

Sue: Thanks to David Lopez for taking over for Steve Ocheltree who was sick & Brook Gale for facilitating class for Gene. A great family gathering was enjoyed by everyone at the church Christmas dinner last Sunday. Turn in names for Christmas baskets by today. We will be making the baskets on Friday evening (Dec. 16) at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please deliver baskets you have requested. We also need turkeys & hams donated. Meet tonight at 5:30 p.m. at the south side of Alluvial in front of Willow Creek Healthcare, east of Willow for the Candy Cane Christmas lights. You can ride on a fire truck provided by Casey Clark, a hay trailer or walk. Bring desserts or goodies for fellowship at Casey & Laura Clark's afterward, everyone is welcome.

Button/Watson: David Morris will continue his class on death and the after-life. David & Gay Morris have a free dryer for anyone who is in need.

Wednesday Night's Menu! Dinner @ 5:30 p.m.

Chinese chicken salad, fried rice, sweet/sour chicken
\$4 per Person
\$10 per Family
Classes start at 6:30.

Communion Servers for December

Jesse Ballard, Ben Koge
Mike Eckrich, Chris McGrady, Tyler McE-owen, Sean McEowen, Randy Southall

For the Record

Attendance:
Worship (12/4) 370
Bible Classes 279
Wed (11/30) 84

Contribution:
Last Week (12/4)
Harvest Day \$52,905

In Our Prayers

Eveyn Howe: recovering from hand surgery
Bill Joslin: mesothelioma
Eleanor Howie (Margie Howie's sister-in-law): hospitalized with broken pelvis
Carolyn Streplin (Jack Shield's cousin): critical infection
Randy Schmidt: continued decline
MVCS: Prayers for continued enrollment
Ongoing Concerns: **Mary Tarkenton, Betty Brown, Jessie Jarman, Edith Hood, Gennis Fraley, Margaret Cooke, Mary Leist, Eva Trader, Christine Hampy, Faye Gresham and Florence Bedoian**

We give thanks to God that **Art & Mike Hill** were baptized here at our building last Saturday. Art & Mike live in Bakersfield. Mike is the son of our **Jeannie Jay**. Art is Jeannie's ex-husband.

For last Sunday's Harvest Day collection, you gave \$33,660.62 in cash and checks and pledged an additional \$19,244 for a total of \$52,904.62. God is the great provider. Our goal was \$64,500, leaving us just \$11,595.38 short of our commitments. Those who weren't here can still participate by filling out a pledge card and writing "missions" on your checks.

If you wish to make a year-end gift to the church, please note that our office will be closed on Dec 30. As long as your gift is dropped off or postmarked before Dec 31, you can count that as a 2011 charitable gift.

Upcoming Church Activities & Events



Holiday Happenings

Children's Christmas Giving Party Sunday Dec. 18

During Class time next week the children will get to assemble gift bags with items that they bring (**see red flyer for items needed**). These gift bags will be given to residents of the Valley Christian Convalescent Home of Hanford. There will also be games, snacks, and pictures with Santa. Pre-k through 6th meet in room 501 after services.

Candlelight Service

Join us on *Christmas Eve* at 7:00 p.m. for readings and song as we light candles to remember the coming of Jesus. Please invite family & friends.

Christmas Sunday Service

We are having a special time of worship at 9:00 a.m. (our regular time) on Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day. There will be no class that day.

Angel Tree Program

Please visit **Robyn Gonzales** in the foyer to pick up Angel Tree tags. Each tag or "Angel" contains the name of a child and a suggested gift. Each "Angel" has a parent in prison and the gifts will be given on behalf of the incarcerated parent.

For Your Calendar

12/24	Candlelight Service
2/10-12	Renew Conference
2/24-26	Women's Retreat
5/6	Sunday Spring Classic

Baby Shower

There is a baby shower for Sarah Scott today at 2:00 She is registered at Buy Buy Baby and Target. Sarah & Aaron Scott (our youth minister) are having a baby boy.



Youth Group News

Youth group will meet tonight for **TNT** (Teens Night Together). Bring your own fast food!

There is a *High School Christmas* party on December 17 at the home of Aaron & Sarah Scott. Please RSVP by Wed. Dec. 13. Be sure to wear your favorite "ugly sweater." Bring a white elephant gift and a side dish or dessert.

Churchwide Homeless Ministry

12/16, Friday, 6:30 p.m.
Meet in the fellowship hall and bring your own fast-food dinner. At 7:00 p.m. we'll make sandwiches.

12/17, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.
Meet at Santa Clara & "F" St. for the homeless ministry. All Shepherding Groups are invited to bring your items to give out on Saturday or drop off on Wed. night in the fellowship hall at 5:30 p.m.

TAKE NOTE

The church office will be closed Friday December 23, 26, & 30 and January 2.



The College Church Family has committed to a big dream of making a massive enhancement to our Children's Ministries. Daily, I have had the privilege to witness the stories of people who are ready to sacrifice and bring their God-given talents and resources to the endeavor. I thought I might share just a glimpse of what I've seen to date with the hope that it might encourage you in the way it has encouraged me.

Scaffolding was loaned to the church. Folks who have never worked with kids are readily volunteering for positions of responsibility. Rope lights suddenly appeared in our storage area in Room 502. Electric boxes, wire, and supplies have been pledged along with the expertise of a competent electrician. College students went to work with kids to work on a sixty-foot long Bible timeline mosaic. A team of renovators has worked tirelessly and given generously of their free time...Educators and administrators have gladly brought their know-how to the table (without being nudged into service). A professional finish carpenter who doesn't even attend this church has become enamored with the plans for the Uptown foyer and volunteered to be a part of the construction. The "tech guys" are offering insight and rolling up their sleeves...Photographers and database people have enlisted themselves. Artists have committed to give of their talents to paint murals and build a tree out of plaster & chicken wire. I've heard a rumor that a small group within the church that holds an annual Christmas party has agreed to donate the approximate total amount of what they would have spent on gifts for each other to count against the construction costs in the West Wing. A non-member widow donated memorial funds from her spouse's funeral. Huge boxes of nails and screws appeared magically. A collection of doors, custom frosted window panes, trim panels, and door hardware were donated by a member who formerly owned a custom door and framing shop. Carpenters and willing workers are approaching our foreman, Cole Bendoski, to sign up for work days. Gifts are being given in multiple forms.

Isn't God good? How wonderful it is to see His work in a tangible fashion. Our individual attempts may seem so small in isolation, but when God puts them in coordination with His plans, something extraordinary occurs. Please keep praying for His will to be done with this ministry. ~ **Associate Minister, Doug Baker**

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Ephesians 4:15-16

Prayer Request: _____ Date: _____

Updates (Address, Phone, E-Mail): _____

Member Requests & Information

