

Jason Locke has been our preaching minister since 2009.

## Minister's Message

Jesus is the light of the world. This is good news! John the Evangelist wrote, "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

At this time of year, we reflect on the coming of Jesus into our world. Much of the Christmas hoopla focuses on Jesus as a baby lying in a manger. We remember Jesus as much more than a baby, but Christmas reminds us that Jesus was fully human in all ways, including his birth. Although he was to become King, he was born in the most humble conditions.

This story about the birth of a baby 2,000 years ago is both comforting and incredibly threatening. It might seem that a baby

Jesus is more palatable to non-Christians than a grown Teacher, Messiah and crucified Savior, but this is untrue. One needs to look only

at Santa Monica and the great effort extended by atheists to replace traditional nativity scenes in a public park with banners about atheism. Jesus is the light of the world, and darkness does not like the light.

Christmas also reminds us that, at the end of the day, nothing will be able to overcome the light. Although we may struggle with this life and with the power of darkness, Jesus' birth reminds us that darkness shall not prevail. And so we hope in birth, in light and in the coming of Jesus.



### College Church of Christ

1284 E. Bullard Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93710  
Phone: 559-439-6530  
Fax: 559-439-7655  
E-mail: office@collegcofc.com  
Website: collegcofc.com

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

#### Dr. Jason Locke

Preaching Minister, 260-0825  
jlockeca@gmail.com

#### Doug Baker

Associate Minister, 250-4777  
realdood@comcast.net

#### Sandra Henderson

Worship Minister, 960-2584  
sandrahenderson@comcast.net

#### Aaron Scott

Youth Minister, (209) 543-4255  
aaronscott@collegcofc.com

#### Beth Haworth

Office Administrator  
office@collegcofc.com

#### Joyce Watson

Bookkeeper & Office  
office@collegcofc.com

### ELDERS

#### Gene Sue (Chair)

252-1476 ... gene@c-and-j.net

#### Lynn Button

906-6091 ... lynn@lynnbutton.com

#### Dale Drury

360-9304 ... dadrury@sbcglobal.net

#### Terry Hutchison

260-2148  
hutchisont@neuropeds.ucsf.edu

#### Michael Rodriguez

267-3183  
therockinrods@sbcglobal.net

#### Lee Smith

291-2901 ... trippop@sbcglobal.net

#### Aaron Watson

779-1468 ... aaronwat1@sbcglobal.net

#### Arthur Wint

225-9935 ... arthurw@csufresno.edu

### 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.

*<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. <sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.*

Luke 2:4-16



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.

He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain." I will proclaim the LORD's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father." (Psalm 2:5-7)

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

#### Call to Worship ~ Jason Locke

Joy to the World  
I Will Call Upon the Lord  
Ancient of Days  
Joy to the World  
Hallelujah Chorus

#### Reading of Psalm 2:1-6 ~ Bob Anderson

#### Sermon (first part) ~ Jason Locke "Let Them Break Their Bonds Asunder"

Hark! The Herald Angles Sing  
Angles We Have Heard On High

#### Sermon (second part)

#### Communion ~ Aaron Watson

#### Reading of Luke 2:6-14 ~ Chase Pafford

O Come All Ye Faithful

#### Reading of Psalm 2:7-12 ~ Bob Anderson

#### Sermon (third part)

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name  
Come Worship Christ the King

#### Sermon (fourth part)

#### Time of Response

God Who Comes to Save  
We Will Worship You  
No Sweeter Name

#### Offering ~ Brian MacDougall

Magnificat

#### Closing Blessing

# December 25, 2011

## Shepherding Group News

**Button/Watson:** We again enjoyed Dave Morris' class this morning "Surprised by Hope." We welcomed Debbie Brown, friend of the Watson's, who has recently relocated to the valley. We sang "Happy Birthday" to Richard Haggard, who celebrated his birthday on Sunday. **Praise:** Lori Herb's brother, Randy, has a new job.

**Smith:** Angles still sing and the star still beckons. The wonder of it all is that..He loves each one of us like there was only one of us to love.

**Sue: Anniversaries:** Harlow & Nola Dawson (12/18) & Frank & Ruth Geary (12/23). Steve Ochletree completed our study last Sunday. David Lopez will start a new study January 8. We will not be meeting for SG Class Today or Next Sunday, January 1. New Year's day breakfast 11:00 a.m. @ Brook's Ranch Restaurant on 99 & Chestnut. We are saddened by the passing of Roman Gonzales's father & Lynn button's mother. Those that delivered Christmas Baskets shared stories about the families that received them.

There will be no Wednesday night dinner this week.

There will be no classes this week.

### For the Record

**Attendance:**  
 Worship (12/18) 384  
 Bible Classes 244  
 Wed (12/20)  
**Contribution:**  
 Last Week (12/18) \$8,245.47  
 Weekly Average \$9,322.28  
 2011 Budget \$11,078.00



Cooper Southwick

### New Baby

Congratulations to Zach & Erica Southwick on the birth of their new baby boy, *Cooper Southwick* (8 lbs 7 oz. 21 in.) and grandparents Eric & Janice Bowman.

### In Our Prayers

**Larry Cowger's** brother **Dick:** cancer treatment and insurance issues

**Bernice Foster:** recovering from a fall

**Robin Button's mom:** weak from cancer

**Button Family:** passing of Lynn's mother

**Arnold Martin:** Gallbladder surgery recovery

**Randy Schmidt:** hospitalized in ICU

**Bernice Foster:** recovery

**Bill Barksdale's** mother, **Ruby:** dementia

**Vee Aljian's** grand-daughter

**Bernice Foster:** recovering at Horizon Health Center, Room 314-B

Ongoing Concerns: **Marsha Rocha, Mary Tarkenton, Betty Brown, Jessie Jarman, Edith Hood, Gennis Fraley, Margaret Cooke, Mary Leist, Eva Trader, Christine Hampy, Faye Gresham and Florence Bedoian**

## Upcoming Church Activities & Events



### New Year's Day Breakfast

Come & join us for fellowship and breakfast to start the new year. Meet at 11:00 a.m. on January 1, 2012 at Brooks Ranch Restaurant (Chestnut/Highway 99). An area is reserved for us. Call Gene Sue for more information at 252-1476.

### Pepperdine Bible Lectureship

May 1-4 2012

Registration has begun for the annual Pepperdine Bible Lectureship at Pepperdine University in Malibu. To stay in the dorms the cost is \$100 per person for four days. Payment is due by January 22. Please contact Laurie Gray.



### Children's Christmas Giving Party

The kids had a great time celebrating Christmas last Sunday!

The kids were able to make about 30 care packages for the Valley Christian Home. Susan Gross delivered the packages and reported that the residents were "appreciative and tickled."

The college-age class was there to help with games, too!

A big thanks to everyone who helped put this event together.



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.

### For Your Calendar

2/10-12 Renew Conference  
 2/24-26 Women's Retreat  
 5/1-4 Pepperdine Bible Lectures  
 5/6 Sunday Spring Classic  
 7/15-21 Yosemite Bible Camp

### Youth Group News

The Youth Group will be going to **Skywalk** (Trampoline Sports Arena located at 10432 Hwy 41). Meet at Skywalk on Wednesday, December 28 at 6:45 p.m. Bring \$13 and eat before you come. Jr. High and High school are invited. Please call or text Aaron Scott at 209-543-4255 to RSVP. Go to [skywalk.us](http://skywalk.us) and fill a waiver or get one from Aaron. The waiver must be signed by a guardian.



I love to cook and bake. I love the feeling of accomplishment when a meal or dessert or special dish comes out tasty!

Think about all the tools and equipment we have at our fingertips these days. Fancy stores have popped up specializing in all things "kitchen", making the job of baking and cooking easier for the home cook like myself.

What is the most important tool in the kitchen? I tend to agree with Alton Brown, chef and TV personality, when he had this to say:

*"The most important tool? **The table.** It doesn't matter how good you are at performing great culinary acts of artistry if there isn't the place for communion to happen. The words "communion" and "communicate" come from the same root word: "common", meaning "to make common, to disperse commonly." So to me, it's the real miracle of food. When you take away the table and the act of service at the table, everything else falls apart."*

I can easily relate this to our time together on Sunday morning. One of the most important tools for us is the Table. The time we come together to share, and communicate, and love as we are loved.

Negativity, dissension, jealousy, judgmental attitudes, pride, and so on, don't belong in any setting, but particularly this setting. Our worship together can be beautiful. The singing can be perfect. The preaching could knock our socks off, but it won't matter if our communication and service isn't full of love and transparent goodness.

Take time this morning to look around and love those who are here with you.

As always, I look forward to being at the Table with you...

**Sandra Henderson**, Worship Minister

Communion Servers for December

Jesse Ballard, Ben Koge, Mike Eckrich, Chris Gerking, Chris McGrady, Tyler McEowen, Sean McEowen, Randy Southall

Prayer Request: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Updates (Address, Phone, E-Mail): \_\_\_\_\_

Member Requests & Information

