



FEBRUARY 2009

[fbcmodesto.com](http://fbcmodesto.com)

## From Pastor Wade



*“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples.”*  
- Jesus Christ  
(John 13:35,

New Living Translation)

Hard times bring out the best in Jesus’ followers. Think about the martyrs of old and the martyrs of today. When faced with following Jesus or denying Him, with faithful resolve they joyfully chose Jesus and accepted the consequences. God still gives special grace at moments like this.

In the early Church, times were hard. Persecution was real, the economy was poor and the government was oppressive. But look at how the believers responded:

*“And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything*

*they had. They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.”* (Acts 2:44-47, NLT)

Some in our church family have not been affected by the economic downturn, some are tightening their belts and others are barely making it. In it all, we care for one another.

As we do, the world watches. They measure if what they see and hear matches our profession. It’s at moments like this that the words of St. Francis of Assisi are best understood: “Preach the Gospel always. If necessary, use words.”

*Wade*

by Jackie Tarpe

It all began last May. Chris knew when on the second day that something wasn't right in her body. The logical thing to do was call the doctor and have it checked. She was hoping it would be something with a simple remedy.

There was one sure thing: whatever it was, God would be there with her regardless of the outcome.

Thirty years before, Chris Billy's journey of faith began with the 11 week premature birth of her son. The doctors said he probably would not live. By the time he was three weeks old, her anger and indignation towards God were great.

How dare He take her son! Hadn't she carried him in her womb, didn't He know how much she wanted this baby? And now her son was dying.

She slipped into the hospital chapel alone. On her knees, she realized her son was not HER baby. He was God's baby. And so she prayed, "I was wrong all these weeks — he's Your son and if You want me to raise him, I will raise him for You.

And if not, please take him home so he won't suffer. From this point on, I will do whatever You want me to do." A peace settled over her. Her relationship with God had begun. God was in control and that was okay. She would trust Him.

The door of the chapel opened. A pediatric nurse entered, calling her name. "Chris, we can't explain it, but your son is no longer dying. In fact, we're taking him off the heart monitor; he's fine. It's a miracle!" At that, Chris' heart filled with praise, "Thank You, God. I am Your daughter and I will raise Your son."

Chris kept her word, raised her son and stayed committed to God.

Now she was facing a trial of a different kind. As she sat in the exam room, the doctor didn't say much but she could read his face that something was wrong. He ordered more tests and a colonoscopy even though her

last one had been fine. She had no indications, signs or symptoms that there was a problem.

The test results were not good. It was cancer. A seven-inch malignant tumor was present, and the doctor ordered an aggressive form of radical radiation and chemotherapy to be done before the surgery. During the course of treatments, Chris kept her focus on God, certain He had a purpose for her life. If this illness was to be part of that purpose, that was okay. He had never failed her.



Chris Billy

Continued on page 3

## Gone!

If you noticed something looks different where our administrative offices were located, you are correct — they're gone! In late November, we moved our offices to the former CE (Christian Education) Building next to the Chapel.

The old office building was torn down in order to clear space for our future multi-purpose facility. While we are in pause mode for the start of the new multi-purpose facility, clearing the site is vital to being ready when the time to build comes.



## He's Always There Continued

“When anxieties would come, prayer was my lifeline,” Chris recalls. When people would ask her if she had asked God why she had to go through this, the answer was always, “God didn’t need to tell me why. He promised He would never give me more than I could bear. He would see me through. Even if I wouldn’t survive, I accepted it because I knew where I was going. I would see Jesus. I wasn’t afraid. Not at all. I had such peace.”

Chris was hopeful her colon could be reconnected after the tumor was removed. It could not, so a colostomy was performed. It was not the end of life though. Chris would still be Chris. She would be able to resume life again doing the things she loved to do. And in some

ways, it was also a new beginning.

As you pass Chris on our church campus, you might not guess she lives with the permanent effects of colon cancer. She does all the things she treasures, especially cooking for Monday Night Church and other church events. She and her husband lead a Home Group. She has returned to work. Life is looking normal again. All that is left is one more round of chemotherapy as a check to make sure no cancer escaped during the surgery.

In all this, Chris says, “God is wonderful. He’s always there. He hears me. He’s healed me. I’m so thankful I’m part of His family, His kingdom. It’s never about us — it’s always about Him. And He is always faithful.”

# New Year Rejoicing In Kid Country

As 2009 approached, the Kid Country staff faced a daunting task: to form an effective ministry team intent on influencing hundreds of children for Jesus 52 weeks a year.

by Tom La Core

There were times it appeared we would come nowhere near

the number of adults needed, but we prayed and trusted God and did He deliver! Here are some examples how God put this

“Team Kid Country” together.

As a kid, **Annie Hamilton** liked to help her mom, Diane, a Kid Country

Early Childhood coordinator.

She also helped her dad, Kip, in a two-to-three-year-old class. As an 18-year-old, last year Annie had her own class of 18-24-month-olds and bonded with those little ones so closely, she decided to follow them as they “graduated” to the two-to-three’s last month. Her dad is her official helper!

In August of 2008, **Elyse Brandvold** was asked by neighbor

Clare Devlin to help out on a Sunday in her

classroom of two-to-three-year-olds. Elyse did, and found her place to serve at First Baptist. Bright and cheerful, it’s a joy to see Elyse growing into a wonderful teacher.

**Jane Kauffman** is our latest leadership addition as an Early Childhood coordinator.

With a big smile on her face, Jane makes sure our classrooms are staffed with leaders and helpers each Sunday.

**Margaret Blaine** came in the preschool ministry as a helper in 2008 and liked it so much she stayed the whole year, signing up again to help us this year. She is a great helper to one of our newer teachers, Kim Schrader. A rookie teacher who stepped into this position on faith, Kim’s doing a great job.

**Linda Hack** was a new face last year, and we were glad she has stayed on this year. Linda brings lots of creative ideas on how to share the love of God to our little ones as she team teaches with seasoned teacher



Jane



Annie



Margaret



Elyse

Continued on page 5

# New Year Rejoicing In Kid Country Continued

Kristin Tiger. Together, they will make a dynamic team.

**Taryn Tillotson** became my administrative assistant in January. Taryn also teaches a preschool Sunday school class in Kid Country. We're blessed to have Taryn and husband,



Taryn

Jon, back in Modesto after Jon's military service has ended.

We were also blessed with new folks on our Tweenage Ministry team. **Mike Dooley** leads a group of third grade boys and **Dee Martin** takes on a team of third grade girls after leading first and second grade for many years. You may notice Don Rowe and I smiling because we have several new adults helping in our Tweenage



Mike

large group ministry called Worship The Rock.



Dee



Matt and Cheri

**Matt and Cheri Davis** along with Rene Brown and Yolande Petersen form a dynamic team leading our 9 am first grade classroom. What a joy it is to see them in action!



Ron and Rhonda

**Ron and Rhonda Peacock** are leading a very special group of adults in a fairly new ministry to our church called "Bridge Builders." It is a place where developmentally delayed grown-ups who are limited in what they can understand can learn about God's love for them in a pace and manner they can deal with successfully. Teresa Corsaut began Bridge Builders and Ron assisted. This year Ron and Rhonda lead this growing ministry, helping adults discover a very special love God has for them.

Continued on page 7

# Reflections On Hope — New Hope

New Hope joyfully presented their Slovenia concert here at home on January 9 to an unexpectedly large audience, many of whom joined them for the after-party, which didn't end until 11 pm! Seeing how the prayers and generous support of many came together to bring the Gospel to Slovenia, we celebrated, savoring the stories and relishing the details of each photograph, each anecdote.

"I'm so glad we came to the concert," says Janine Runnels. "We had prayed for you guys all fall and it was such a thrill to see how it all came together. To be there and see and feel the whole thing — I felt like we came full circle, from prayer to results."

Here is one story from the concert, and one inspiring response: Several times on the 10-concert tour, the Holy Spirit moved us toward unscheduled prayer and worship. Soon everyone would be stopped in their tracks, basking in the presence of God, some singing, some praying, some silent. One such post-concert time occurred when a serious meeting of some church leaders went on nearby. At that moment God

impressed Greg Davis with a vision of a huge shaft of light coming down from Heaven on the spot where we were — God's pleasure and glory shining on His people. Days later, as we drove into spiritually dark Kocevje, under a swollen black sky, over the hills shown that vertical clear shaft of light. We were astounded! That night, seven-year

old Nusa Lipovec presented Lin with a drawing she made of a similar shaft of light coming down from Heaven. She said it was God shining on us. Nusa had no idea about Greg's vision nor had she seen the light that afternoon.

As she heard about this story, Linda Choate reacted in awe: "It was the most amazing thing to hear that story and realize the fulfillment of a vision and dream God gave the Slovenia prayer warriors of 2001. During a prayer time with my husband, Mike, and Anna Droll, God told me to pray specifically for Him to crack open the sky over Slovenia so His light would shine down on that nation.

"Through the years, that has been my

prayer for Slovenia; it has never left me. With each blog entry, each prayer request, this prayer was prayed. When I heard about the vision Greg had and the picture the little girl drew, I was overwhelmed that He was truly answering my prayer. I was also amazed that it was revealed at the culmination of what New Hope was

about. Our awesome God was using all of us — each person who has ever been a part of New Hope, given towards or prayed for New Hope. Each one has had a part of God's vision.

"The sky has been cracked and His light is shining through in ways we couldn't have even imagined. Praise Him!"



Nusa's picture

# People In The Park

I met some of my family at the park for lunch one day this week, and was met by the contrast of two stark realities. There was such joy on the

by Sheryl Monday

faces and in the actions of the little children as they ran and played with one another. They threw themselves into their activities with utter abandon, with not a care in the world. They knew that when they got hungry or thirsty their mothers would be right there to satisfy their need. When they fell down or were “mistreated” by a playmate, their wounds, real or imagined, would be comforted.

This is a picture of what our relationship with God should be like: living for Him like there is no tomorrow, knowing that He will provide our every need.

Not far away sat a man whose daily life could not have been more different. He was completely alone,

he looked as if he had not eaten very much in the last few days and his clothes were soiled and worn. He had all his worldly possessions in a backpack. No one was nearby to comfort or care for him. His face looked as if he carried the weight of the world on his shoulders.



Sheryl

This is what those lost from Jesus look like. Anxious, weighed down and never satisfied.

So many people have so much, and so many people have so little. We who know Jesus need to be thankful for what God has given us and actively look for opportunities where we can share our lives, our goods and even our attention.

## New Year Rejoicing In Kid Country Continued

We have been blessed with many people who serve our children year after year. This is what God has shaped them to do. We are continually adding to our ministry team as they, too, discover the joy of influencing lives to follow Jesus. Recently my Kid Country directors and I met with another church that was experiencing difficulties in staffing their large children’s ministry. We found that our ministry here is unique in that we have people investing a year or years of Sundays in the lives of our little ones. I am so thankful that this is in the DNA of our church. By being with the kids each week, we are able to get to know the kids and try our best to love them as Jesus would. This hopefully makes each Sunday the best day of their week and helps them move toward the decision to follow Him.



**FEBRUARY 2009**

## **Sunday Night Teaching Time**

### **Galatians: Being Free in a Tense Time**

*Can you be a true follower of Christ and live totally free? Are these two paths compatible? Discover what true freedom is and how to grow strong in your faith in these uncertain times*

- Sunday, 5:30 pm
- Pavilion Garden

Sunday Night Teaching Time  
questions?  
extension 2320

## **Believer's Baptism**

### **Sunday, February 22**

- 9 & 10:45 am
- An opportunity to express your faith in Jesus Christ publicly and allow others to share in your joy

*If you'd like to be baptized, please call the church office*

Baptism questions?  
extension 2370

## **Monday Night Church**

### **Service and Meal**

- Monday, Feb 9, 16, 23
- 6 pm, Pavilion Concourse

### **Volunteer Opportunities Available**

- Help with childcare, prayer partners, sign language or food service
- Sign up this weekend on your communication card or call the office

Monday Night Church questions?  
extension 2350

## **Membership Class**

### **New Five-week Class**

- Begins Sunday, March 1, 9 am
- Pavilion Garden, rm 931
- Taught by various pastors
- A basic introduction to First B and how to get connected, no need to pre-register for this class

Membership questions?  
extension 2370

## **Contagious Christian Seminar**

**It's about reaching out and communicating your faith in a style that fits you**

**Sunday, Feb 8, 15, 22**

**9 & 10:45 am, Pavilion Garden, rm 931**

Contagious Christian questions?  
extension 2350

## Home Groups

### Home Groups – a place to belong

- Connect with other adults
- Study God's Word
- Various groups and locations
- Call or go to fbcmodesto.com

Home Group questions?  
extension 2370

## Worship Ministries

### Worship Choir

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- The Point, downstairs
- High school and up welcome

### Worship Orchestra

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- Worship Center
- High school and up welcome

Worship questions?  
extension 2113

## World Outreach

### Night of Prayer For The World

- Monday, Feb 2 (first Monday each month)
- 6:30 pm, 1325 11th St

### Reception For

### Steve & Liz Spellman - Brazil

- Sunday, Feb 22
- 5:30 pm, Pavilion Garden

### Chinese Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, The Point, upstairs

### Laotian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, 1325 11th St

### Cambodian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, Office Bldg, rms 336 & 340

World Outreach questions?  
extension 2320

## First B Prayer List

### Pastoral Staff

Wade Estes  
*Senior Pastor*

Paul Zeek  
*Executive Pastor*

Tom La Core  
*Children's Ministries/Membership*

Jeff Harmon  
*High School Ministries*

Travis Edgerton  
*Student Worship Ministries*

Matt Moore  
*Junior High Ministries*

Mike Emmert  
*College Ministries*

Mike Moran  
*Adult Ministries*

Ross Paterson  
*Senior Adults/Men's Ministries*

Terry Benner  
*Singles & Marriage Ministries*

Gayleen Terry  
*Pastoral Ministries, Women*

Cliff Sexton  
*Pastoral Ministries*

Claude Terry  
*World & Local Outreach*

Larry Bull  
*Worship Pastor*

Paul Andrew  
*Business Administrator*

### Board of Deacons

Corey Acree • Greg Blount  
James Davis • Ted Dickason  
Curtis Grant • Sean Hulin  
Dennis Hurst • Rick Myers  
Randy Reeves • Dennis Smith  
Steve Strand • Ben Ward

## STUDENT MINISTRIES

### Fusion Junior High

#### Sundays - Center Stage

- 9 am, Chapel

#### Fusion Inside Out Small Groups

- Wednesdays, 6:45 pm, Chapel

#### Winter Camp

##### RPM: Radically Pursuing the Mission

- Friday-Sunday, Feb 27-Mar 1
- \$139 (\$50 deposit holds lower price)  
\$159 (Feb 15 price increase)
- Luggage drop-off, Feb 25  
5:30-7 pm, Chapel

#### Check Out Fusion Online

- fusionjrhigh.com

### High School

#### The Deep End - Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Concourse

#### 128/Fuel Groups

- Wednesdays
- 6:45 pm, Pavilion Concourse

#### Check Out 128 Online

- 128online.com

### College Ministry

18-20 Somethings

#### IGNITE - Sundays

- 7 pm, Pavilion Concourse

#### The Word At The Plex

- Mondays and Thursdays, 8-9 pm
- 418 College Ave
- Pray, read the Word; hear how it impacts others and fits into your life

#### Check Us Out Online

- fbcignite.com

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Student Ministries questions?  
extension 2506/2508

## Single Adults

### Single Focus

- Sundays, 9 am
- The Point, upstairs
- *Emotional Purity: a Look at Male and Female Relationships*

Single Adult questions?  
extension 2373

## Family Dynamics Marriage • Family • Parenting

### Beginning February 1 9 & 10:45 am

- The Point, downstairs
- *I've Misplaced Myself: When People Get Lost in Their Own Personalities*
- A new series led by Terry Benner

Family Dynamics questions?  
extension 2373

## Young Marrieds & Young Families

### Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Garden

Yep, Mike Moran is beginning a new series! Come check out our class as we *live life together*. We focus on biblical truths, faith, building strong families and more.

Young Marrieds & Young Families  
questions?  
extension 2373

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## Women's Ministries

### Encouragement and Prayer Group

- *Ladies in Waiting* - deals with infertility

### Small Groups

Call for times and locations

#### Sunday

- Sisters

*Stepping Up*, by Beth Moore

- Sisters 2

*Wisdom of the Word, Acts Part 2*

#### Monday

*Perfect Gifts* - for moms of children with special needs

*Grandmoms in Touch*

#### Tuesday - childcare for morning classes only

*Living Beyond Yourself*

*The Patriarchs*

*A Woman's Heart: God's*

*Dwelling Place*

*Lord, Change My Attitude*

*Women of the Bible*

*Precept Upon Precept:*

*Truth Project, I Samuel*

*Esther*

*Hebrews*

*Beauty by the Book*

*Experiencing God*

*Acts, Seeing God's Power in Action*

#### Wednesday

*Precept Upon Precept:*

*Isaiah*

#### Thursday

*MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers*

First and third Thursday of each month

Second Thursday of each month

meet for Bible study *Mom-to-Mom*,

*Inside Out Parenting: A Mom*

*Mission*

Women's Ministries questions?

extension 2316

## 2008 Wedding Anniversaries

### 50th

*Vince & Sandy Chase*

*John & Carole Hopper*

*Ron & Julia Morris*

*Len & Gay Stephens*

*David & Carole Stuart*

*Hal & Marilyn Traynor*

### 60th

*Herb & Lorraine Ahart*

## Men's Ministries

### Bass Pro Shop Tour

- Saturday, Feb 21

- Stop by the Men's Ministries tent on Sunday for details

### Men's Small Groups

- Various groups available

Men's Ministries questions?  
extension 2355

## Pacesetters

### Sundays

- 10:45 am, Pavilion Garden

- *Luke, Christian Ethics* and

*Heaven, God's Great Reward*

### Monthly Prayer Meeting

- Monday, Feb 2, 3:30 pm

- Office Bldg, Fireside Room

### Homebound Team Members

### Appreciation Dessert

- Wednesday, Feb 4, 2-3:30 pm

- Office Bldg, Social Hall

### Soup & Movie

- Friday, Feb 20

Lunch, noon, Office Bldg, Social Hall

Movie, 1 pm, Chapel

Pacesetters questions?

extension 2355

## Recovery In Christ Ministries Support Groups

Substance abuse, dysfunction and dependency

**Thursdays, 7 pm, Pavilion Garden**  
**Childcare provided, birth-sixth grade**  
*Various groups available for men and women. Our recovery ministry is designed to help people work through difficult issues that cannot be worked through alone.*

### **Search For Significance For Women**

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- Pavilion Garden

Recovery In Christ questions?  
extension 2350

## Kid Country

### **TPC Musical Rehearsals**

- Begins Sunday, Feb 8-Mar 22
- 5:30-6:45 pm
- The Point, downstairs
- For Tweenagers, grades 3-5

### **Good News Bible Clubs In City Schools**

- You can provide prayer support, supplies or teach
- Call to sign up

### **Christian Martial Arts Class**

- Ages 8-17
- Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 pm
- Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 am
- The Family Room
- Small monthly fee

### **Opportunities To Serve In 2009**

- Many opportunities for you to help children learn more about Jesus
- Fill out a 2009 Kid Country helper card and turn it in Sunday

Kid Country questions?  
extension 2120

## fbcmodesto.com

### **Check Us Out On The Web**

- Easy to use
- Register and even pay for camps
- Listen to weekend messages
- Find information on classes and events
- Read back issues of *Around the Rock*
- Connect with others in groups of all sizes

## First Impressions

### **An Opportunity For You To Show Hospitality**

- Welcome guests and help them find their way around the church campus
- One service, one Sunday per month
- Sign up at [fbcmodesto.com](http://fbcmodesto.com) or call the church office during the week for more information

First Impressions questions?  
extension 2806

## Park Cafe

### **An Opportunity To Have Fun And Serve At The Same Time!**

- Be a part of this hospitality ministry during the 2nd hour on Sundays
- It's fun and training is provided
- Sign up in the Park Café on Sunday

Park Café questions?  
extension 2373

## First B Saturday Night

### Worship and Teaching

- 6:00, Chapel
- Children's programs

First B Saturday Night questions?  
521-0181

## Church Blood Plan Available

### The Gift of Life

- Please call the church office for information on how you can be a part of this plan

Blood Plan questions?  
extension 2350

## VITAL STATS

### New Arrivals

Dec 17 • Luke Campbell • 9 lbs. 5 oz., born to **Darren & Jen Van Steenwyk**

Dec 29 • Sydney Joy • 8 lbs. 6 oz., born to **Nathan & Cathie Bentley**  
Grandmother is *Maridel Visser*

### Sympathy Extended To

**Janet Turner** in the loss of her brother, Mel Turner

**Pam Williams** in the loss of her mother, Dorothy Harris  
Grandmother of *Andrea Decker* and *Laura LaBarbera*

**Debi Zeer** in the loss of her mother, Evelyn Bishop

**Midge Vanderpool** in the loss of her sister, Naydene Barnes

**David Tan** in the loss of his father, Tan Kwang Lee  
Grandfather of *Jed* and *Jana Tan*

**Mark Ohanis** in the loss of his father, Albert Ohanis

**Randy Ollar** in the loss of his father, Charles Ollar

**Stan Muncy** in the loss of his sister, Leona Oxford

**Joanne Ritchart** in the loss of her husband, Robert Ritchart  
Father of *Kaye Sneed*. Grandfather of *Daniel*, *David* and *Katie Sneed*

### Memorial Gifts

First Baptist Church offers the opportunity to give monetary gifts in memory of a friend or loved one. These gifts are a wonderful way to honor one who has died and advance the work of the Lord as well. Acknowledgments of memorial gifts are sent to the donor and the bereaved family. Gifts have recently been received in memory of

**Marie Mae Betts • Evelyn Bishop • Lewis Lee**  
**Ed & Charlotte Zuhlke**