



# Valley Grace Voice

Monthly Newsletter

March 2010

## Hope for Sacramento's Homeless

For our Easter outreach, we are partnering with Union Gospel Mission to bring hope to Sacramento's homeless.

We will be filling one gallon resealable plastic bags with new small-sized toiletry and personal care items, along with a few healthy snacks, and bringing them to Union Gospel Mission for them to distribute to the homeless people in our city. Your caring gift will tell hurting people that they are important to you and to God.

Items needed for these bags include:

Toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, hand sanitizer, socks, energy bars, (no sugary candy, please), lip balm, lotion, first aid supplies shaving supplies, etc. Think about what you would want if you were homeless.

We have three different choices for your involvement:

- 1) You may fill a one gallon resealable bag yourself.
- 2) You may buy items in bulk and bring them to the church and we will fill the bags for you.
- 3) You may give money and we will purchase what is needed for the bags.

Please bring your items  
to the church  
no later than March 14

## Don't miss Easter!

Easter Sunday is April 4.  
What a great time to invite your friends, neighbors, family, co-workers...everyone you know!

We will have 2 worship services that morning: 8:30 and 10:00.

Come, celebrate  
the resurrection of  
our Lord Jesus Christ  
together!

## Celebration of Discipline

Everyone is welcome at our next Celebration of Discipline class on

**Saturday, March 27**

We will begin with a  
delicious lunch at **12:30 PM**

**We will conclude**

**The Discipline of Service with  
a special opportunity for service**

This will be a

**closing you won't want to miss**

We will also be introducing  
The Discipline of Confession



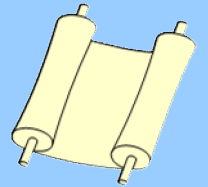
## Maundy Thursday Seder Supper

God delivered his people from slavery to Egypt and for untold generations Jewish families have gathered for a Seder meal at Passover to retell that ancient story.

The last supper that Jesus had with his disciples was a Passover Seder meal. It was there that Jesus reinterpreted the bread and wine of the meal as a way of remembering the significance of his death.

We will share a Seder Supper meal on Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7:30 pm to learn about the meaning of Passover and, through that, gain a deeper appreciate of the events of Good Friday and Easter.

Details on reservations and times will be released soon. Like to help in the preparation? See Kathi Garretson.



## Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery! might not be what you think! It's not a gimmick or a quick fix. It's a life-long process and program that will bring God's power and healing into your life. Celebrate Recovery is a biblical approach to dealing with your hurts, habits and hang-ups.

Everyone is welcome.

We meet Mondays at 7:30 pm.

Come and check it out.

Contact Pastor Marji at 524-2424

Or Archosaur@aol.com

or George at 821-0598

## Valley Grace Men Monday, March 1

Our Valley Grace Men's Group will meet on Monday, March 1 at 7 PM at JR's BBQ on Otto Circle for really great food, fellowship & Bible study.

Bring your Bible and come for an inspiring evening.

For more information, call Bill Long at 813-7006 or email him at [w.long.jr@comcast.net](mailto:w.long.jr@comcast.net)

**The April meeting will be Monday, April 5**

## Celebration Station

**Celebration Station** is a children's resource to compliment Celebrate Recovery. While adults explore topics that bring healing and wholeness, kids discover the same truths in age-appropriate ways!

**Celebration Station** gives kids...

- Hope for all the amazing things God has in store for them
  - Truths that help them overcome life's challenges by learning to lean on Jesus
  - Joy as they embark on a wonderful, year-long journey of songs, games, videos, impactful experiences, and great conversation
  - Friendships with other children

We meet Mondays at 7:30 PM. For information email: Pastor Marji at [Archosaur@aol.com](mailto:Archosaur@aol.com) or call the church 916-681-7778

# **Lent has begun but it's not too late to take the Challenge**

You know you need to read the Bible daily  
but finding - or taking - the time to do so can be a problem.  
The season of Lent is a great time to get rid of old habits and start new ones.

***So here is the Lent Challenge:***

***let's make a commitment to read the Bible daily during Lent.***

Use the daily Bible studies written by Pastor Greg, Our Daily Bread,  
or another plan that works best for you.

We recently took a survey asking you if you read the Bible regularly.  
Here are the reasons some of you gave for reading the Bible every day:

To know God better; To get strength, direction, guidance

To grow spiritually; To share with others

To know the truth in situations in my life

To learn how to deal with this life and what is next

To regain, retain and react

To help solve problems in my life and in the lives of others

To live my life right; To stay close to God; To do God's will

To build a better knowledge of God; To stay close to God and grow in faith

It keeps me focused on my powerlessness and my need to live in the now

This has always been the way I know God and what He wants my life to be like

To learn how God wants me to live

To learn how to love others like Christ does

To find hope; To find comfort; To find the path to glory

To gain strength and knowledge

Sometimes just because I feel like I need to

To know about God and His love

It helps me get through the tough times and the good times

To help me understand the Lord and to help me follow the Lord

Yes, last year I read through it all and I'm going to again this year

Because I can't do life without God daily - He is my first priority every morning

I eat food to strengthen my body, I eat the Bible to strengthen my soul

I need to know God's word and what He wants from me

To help me be more like Jesus and to remember

who God is during the course of my day

Because it is my daily source of guidance and it gives me instruction and wisdom

It connects me with God

To know God better and have a closer relationship with Him.



## Bunny's Birthday

Bunny's birthday is March 6 and we want to remember her in a special way. Remember last year we went down to see her and brought our hymnals and sang hymns with her. She loved it and we want to do that again this year. On **Sunday, March 7** we will meet here at 2:30 to carpool to Bunny's place. If you would rather, you can just meet us there at 3:00.

Another way you can bless Bunny is to **send her a card**. It would be great if everyone in our church sent her a card and overwhelmed her with our love. Her address is: Bunny Fish, Sutter Oaks Midtown Nursing Center, 2600 L Street, Room 134, Sacramento, CA 95816.

## Ernie and Anna Smith

Ernie and Anna Smith have served in Ukraine for over a decade planting churches and training church leaders.

They will be sharing with us in the worship service on **Sunday, March 21**.

You will be encouraged by their stories and challenged to pray for the Ukraine church.

You can read their latest newsletter on the Valley Grace website, [valleygrace.org](http://valleygrace.org). Click on the "Missions Update" link.



## Anger Management Class

*We all deal with anger in our lives - whether it be in a subtle or violent way. Being angry can involve such emotional expressions as frustration, irritability, annoyance, aggravation, or violence.*

*The good news is that anger can be managed! In an eight week class beginning June 7, we will learn to identify the best ways to handle anger, understand how pride, fear, loneliness and inferiority feed our anger, and learn how to identify patterns of thinking and behaving that influence our anger. More to come, but mark your calendars.*

# **Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?**

**In six sessions we are  
exploring the heartbeat of  
our relationship with God:  
prayer.**

**We will consider questions like these:**

**Why pray?**

**How does it work?**

**And, does prayer change anything?**

**The goal is to study, experience and  
cherish God's gift of prayer.**

**The class meets after worship each  
Sunday. We just started but it's not  
too late to join us.**

**Each session features a  
DVD presentation by  
author Philip Yancey.**

**A study guide is available for \$7.**

**A light lunch will be served before the  
class begins.**



## **Our Staff**

**Greg Smith, Senior Pastor**

**Marji Miller, Associate Pastor**

**Diane VanKirk, Admin. Assistant**

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