



APRIL 2007  
fbcmodeledo.com

## From Pastor Wade

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*Have you noticed the bright orange outline on the parking lot behind the Family Life Pavilion?*

It's the footprint for our future multi-purpose building! The prayer team for Building on Purpose came up with this great idea. It's an outstanding way to help us grasp the size and location of what's coming ... AND, it's a great reminder to pray!

Every time you see or walk across that bright line, and grow in your comprehension of what this building will mean, ask God to fill it with children, youth and adults who don't yet know Him, and with those who are pursuing becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ!

Also, construction on the new parking lot on 11th Street has begun! This new parking area, combined with the one behind the Chapel (also on 11th Street) will replace the parking lot that will be covered in the

construction of our new facility. In fact, we'll end up with about eight more spaces – not a lot, but every space helps.

You're likely hearing the buzz from those who have already attended a home meeting. If you haven't yet signed up, please call the Church Office, go to the church Web site at [fbcmodeledo.com](http://fbcmodeledo.com), or turn in a reservation card at one of the weekend worship services. These meetings are all about information, so please schedule a time so you can be fully informed.

And, Easter is coming quickly! Be sure to invite friends and family to join you on Saturday evening or Sunday morning in the Worship Center, The Edge or The Family Room. We'll have hundreds of fresh donuts and great beverages for the whole family. We want our guests to feel welcome!

Wade

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by Jana Bullock

In late February, our congregation began a prayer adventure, our first 24-hour prayer emphasis. For 24 hours, people came to The

Family Room and prayed. It was an uncomplicated

time dedicated to prayer. Although each person committed to pray for a half hour, many stayed much longer. Some prayed alone; some with others. Some even walked around the campus praying.

We called on God, asking Him to provide continued direction for the new multi-purpose building expansion project. We prayed for the ministries of the church, world outreach and local evangelism, for our own personal walks with the Lord and for our leaders. We prayed for those who don't yet know Christ and for our community.

Those who were able to participate on our church campus and at home felt immensely blessed! Many chose to share their thoughts in prayer journals that were available on campus.

Some took the opportunity to praise. One participant wrote, "I thank God for His incredible gift of salvation! His provision for my relationship with Him amazes me!"

Another wrote, "The Lord is worthy to be praised ... I give all praise and glory and honor to the King."

"I thank You for my life. It is not perfect and neither am I. But look at me and see the things that You have done that have taught me that You are always with me and that my life can be so much more than what it used to be. I thank You for everything You have blessed me with."

Others took the opportunity to call out to God. "I ask Your blessings on all Your faithful servants who will serve in existing and new ministries. I ask Your blessings on all the people that You will send through our doors, that we may reach them and help them be saved."

"Father, open the eyes and ears of Your children, let them hear from You! Be the Light unto our footsteps."

Still others took the opportunity to comment on their experience being part of the prayer time. "What an awesome time of prayer. Knowing and feeling the church body was praying together and asking God to give us one heart and mind. ... Looking forward to more times like these."

"I am going through a process of getting away and breaking free from a hold that sin has had on me. This has encouraged me. This is because I have truly seen the body of Christ come together and serve God and call on Him first for their needs. God is amazing how He works

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The focus of this year's college winter camp was faith - having faith even when it doesn't make sense, trusting God when we don't feel like it and anticipating that God wants to do great things in our lives if we will only listen and allow Him to move.

As the camp was blanketed in fresh snow, the worship of God was powerful. Paul Zeek reports, "I saw and sensed more joy and celebration in worship than I have sensed in any group for many years."

Evoked by candid questions about spiritual growth, struggles and victories, a personal sharing time went on all morning and had to be ended because lunch was being served. At their Encouragement Table, campers spent time writing messages to each other, offering words of blessing and courage. This life-giving activity brought tremendous joy to individuals and to the group as a whole. Paul Zeek's teaching and the ministry of God's Word was also powerful.

"As I was reading [Deuteronomy 20:1-4]," says Deanna Duncan, "I could feel myself standing up straighter because I know that God is with me always, and no

matter what battle I am fighting He is with me, so there is nothing to fear! It is so exciting to understand how wonderful our God is!

"The other thing I loved about camp was the quote we talked about on Saturday morning: Jesus promised those who would follow Him only three things ... that they would be absurdly happy, entirely fearless and always in trouble.

"The first thing I thought of was not that it was right or wrong, like most people were saying, but I thought 'I want that!' I want to be extremely happy with the joy

God gives, fearless knowing God is always with me and always in the kind of trouble God wants me to be in for His glory! Wouldn't

that be a wonderful life!"

After camp, the group agreed that God's message for them, delivered with crystal clarity at camp, was and is unity. Many voiced how God urged them to stay in the group and grow closer together. There is great anticipation and excitement in the group as they look forward to a new college pastor coming.



*More photos on page 4*

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## College Ministry Grows



## Deeper Still

From as far away as Australia and from all over the United States, 9,000 women gathered at Moscone Center in San Francisco in March for a weekend of Bible teaching, inspiring worship and stories of life change. The First Baptist contingent reports that at the close of one session, women were challenged to surrender their hearts and lives to the sovereign God. As the women began standing the number grew to well over 1,000.

Speakers Kay Arthur, Beth Moore and Priscilla Shirer shared openly about how God brought them through the trials of life, including divorce, abuse and other hurts. Their stories each focused on God's sovereignty and grace, and the fact that nothing happens to us that has not been filtered through His hands. The final challenge – if we want to grow deeper, we must learn to be still before Him.

# Talk Around The Rock

**Matt Schrader** was just honored as Chaplain of the Year by the Modesto Police Department. Matt serves as a volunteer police chaplain, ministering to people in crisis as well as to the peace officers themselves.



**Lilly Pulido**, a junior in the high school group at First B, recently donated her hair to Locks of Love, an organization providing hairpieces to children suffering long-term hair loss from many conditions. At the salon, Lilly looked through a book of children waiting for hairpieces and the picture of a seven-year-old with cancer brought her to tears – this

was the girl who would receive her hair. Lilly said this was one way she could share God's love and make a difference in someone's life.



**Justin Conger**, who served on our youth staff for several years, has just been called to be Director of Operations at Portico Church in Charlottesville,

Virginia. Chris Atwell is the lead pastor of this new, growing church located near the University of Virginia.

## Benefiting the Family, Church and Community

You may not know it, but through our local Delta Blood Bank, we participate as a church in what is called the Bloodplan. As members of First Baptist, we have the opportunity to give blood at the local blood bank, and when we give in the name of First Baptist Modesto, we automatically register ourselves and our own households for coverage. This means that when you donate, anyone in your nuclear family who needs blood will be provided with it at no cost as often as needed, for one year.

This special coverage is extended to us because we are such a large church and have many potential donors who

could give regularly throughout the year. Along with helping our own nuclear and church family, this is a wonderful way for us to meet a vital need in our community, helping provide life-saving blood for others in times of emergency.

This unique opportunity for healthy people to regularly donate blood also covers church members, who for physical reasons cannot give blood, but need this coverage.

Pastor Cliff Sexton reminds us that our community needs this kind of support, and our church benefits from faithful donations throughout the year.

# The Courage To Live A Life Of Opposites

Being a Christian demands, at times, a unique type of courage, the courage to live life opposite of the life the world compels us to. Jesus

by Terry Benner

demonstrated that kind of life, and He challenges us to live a life opposite of most things the world has taught us. In doing that, Jesus asks us to think very differently about how we interact with one another and with God.

## *Here are just a few examples of “living opposite”*

- Love your enemies and do good to them.
- Base your decisions on eternity, which you can't comprehend, rather than on the present, which you can.
- Forgive rather than seek retribution.
- Surrender your rights rather than demanding them.
- Believe you will not die when you see people dying all around you.
- Believe that when you are weak, you are strong.

If we are serious in our commitment to live this kind of life, I suggest this takes no small amount of courage. That which requires this kind of commitment also requires me to ask the question, “Is this real, and is it worth it?” When I find people asking these questions, they're usually doing so not because they aren't committed, but because they are.

In this territory, encouragement becomes not just a nice thing to do, but mandatory for spiritual survival.

However, much of the encouragement we give isn't up to that task. For the most part, we see encouragement as a tool of affirmation, with statements like “Good job, nice going,” and “Hang in there.” These are fine and we all need these words. However, words that make me feel good about myself and words that give me courage are two different kinds of statements. To encourage actually means to impart courage to someone in need of it. To give courage to another is to help them to be willing to risk physical, social and emotional well-being for the sake of the King. It is to help them live this life of opposites when the world tells them that's not a smart thing to do.

Real encouragement is not a pat on the back. Real encouragement isn't a word of affirmation that imparts courage in those moments of doubt where for the tenth or hundredth time we ask, “Is this real? Is He worth it?” Instead, real encouragement is the simple act of reminding another person what is true. The courage to make the hard, everyday choices our faith demands always finds its motivation in truth. In His Word, God gives us truth that has the purpose of giving courage.



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## **The Courage To Live A Life Of Opposites**

Three examples of truth that gives courage:

- He is the King and this is what He has done for us - Acts 13:32-40
- We can risk failure in attempting to please Him because of His grace - Romans 7:14-25
- Our purpose is not to be good but to be changed - Romans 12:2

I have found in life that choosing between cowardice and courage is not difficult, especially if you can put pride aside. Cowardice definitely has some perks, the first of which is a better chance of survival! And certainly, when faced with choosing the admiration of others and avoiding pain and suffering that courage might bring, choosing cowardice seems like a no-brainer. Yet, as a follower of Jesus, I have found that courage isn't optional! Because of this, I recognize I need all the help I can get so I don't shrink from the task before me.

How do we get that help, that courage? By meeting in small groups, and also by hearing how others are courageously "Making it Count." It is because both these things allow us to share truth with one another and therefore be encouraged. Followers of Jesus who meet in small groups on a regular basis have chosen to live this life of opposites. We meet to share struggles, failures and victories, and in the middle of all this to remind each other of the reason why we live for the King.

The power of a "Make it Count" story is not just a feel-good message. It is an account of someone doing the opposite of what they would usually do, for the sake of the King. When we hear those stories, we realize, "If they can do that, so can I." Truth has its greatest power to give courage when it is shared through the personal experience of those who have had the courage to trust and act upon it. You cannot give courage unless you choose to live courageously.

## **Dream Big ... Pray Big!**

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everything out. I was not sure if I was going to be able to pray for a whole 30 minutes, but it was refreshing and such a great experience. I am so glad I am a part of this church and this experience. I am sure that God will give us something much greater than we have planned or asked for!"

The prayer team is currently planning a special week of prayer April 23-27. More details will be coming out soon ... don't miss out!



APRIL 2007

# Easter Weekend

Saturday, April 7  
6 p.m.

Worship Center

Sunday, April 8  
9 and 10:45 a.m.

Worship Center

The Edge • 10:45 a.m.  
Pavilion Concourse

## Good Friday Communion Service

April 6

7:00 p.m.

Worship Center

## Share Your Faith Class

Tuesdays, beginning April 10

- 16 sessions
- 6:30-9 p.m., 1325 11th Street
- No childcare

Share Your Faith questions?  
extension 2621

## National Day of Prayer

• America Unite in Prayer •

Thursday, May 3

- 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- The Family Room
- Prayer guide provided

## Believer's Baptism

Sunday, April 29

*If you would like to be baptized, please attend the Membership Class or call the Church Office and schedule an appointment with a pastor*

Baptism questions?  
extension 2609

## Membership Class

New Five-week Class

- Sunday, May 6, 9 a.m.
- Pavilion Garden, Room 931
- Taught by various pastors

Membership questions?  
extension 2609

## Dedication of Parents & Little Children

### **Mother's Day Weekend**

**Saturday, May 12 • 6 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 13 • 9 & 10:45 a.m.**

- Call Matt Schrader in the Church Office by Monday, April 30 to participate

Dedication of Parents  
& Little Children questions?  
extension 2632

## Worship Ministries

### **Worship Choir • Thursdays**

- 6:30 p.m., The Point, downstairs
- High school and up welcome
- Childcare provided

### **Worship Orchestra • Thursdays**

- 7 p.m., Worship Center
- High school and up welcome
- Childcare provided

Worship questions?  
extension 2113

## Pacesetters

### **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

- Monday, April 2, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- 818 Needham Street

### **Homebound/80+ Communion and Luncheon**

- Thursday, April 5, 11 a.m.
- Pavilion Garden

### **Gaither Homecoming - Give It Away Tour 2007**

- Friday, April 27
- Oracle Arena, Oakland
- \$38 per person
- Leave First B at 4:30 p.m.

Pacesetters questions?  
extension 2617

## Welcome New Members

Adam Ahlswede • Paris Andrew  
Larry Bauman • Casey Boyles  
Alma Crist • Walter & Liselle Clark  
Antonio & Yan Tracy Cortez  
Brittany Giordano • Amber Gorne  
Jeffrey Hurd • Anna Kuhlman  
Gary & Nancy Kuhlman  
Michele Lourenco  
Bob & Carol Madsen • Tim Nesbitt  
Jason Orr • Samuel Peinado  
Loeup Pon • Jeremiah Reaka  
Joshua Reaka • Tirzah Ricklick  
Ty Ricklick • Deborah Shassetz  
Rosalie Michelle Sizelove  
Richard & Pamela Slovek  
Scott & Jill Smith • Al Sterling  
Wade Travis • Corinne Van Sant  
Francisco Villa • Michael Walker  
Duane & Christina Wolterstorff  
Kyle Wolterstorff

### PLEASE NOTE:

## Home Meetings

**Building on Purpose**

**Embrace Today ...**

**Imagine Tomorrow**

Sign up online OR on reservation cards available in worship services and in the Church Office

These informational meetings provide a comfortable setting to help us get the details on our four-year building campaign, multi-purpose facility and campus development

Home Meeting questions?  
extension 2637

DREAM BIG



## STUDENT MINISTRIES

### Junior High

#### FOCUS – Sundays

- 9 a.m., Chapel
- No Focus Easter Sunday, April 8

#### C-Groups - Wednesdays

- 6:50-8:30 p.m., Chapel
- Special Concert, April 25

#### Great America • Saturday, April 14

- 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., details coming

### High School

#### The Deep End - Sundays

- 9 a.m., Pavilion Concourse
- Discipleship pathway for students

#### 128/Fuel Groups – Wednesdays

- 6:45-8:30 p.m., Pavilion Concourse
- Worship gathering for students, then move into Fuel Groups

#### ONE City-Wide Worship Night

- Wednesday, April 4

#### Dodgeball & Bowling

- Wednesday, April 11
- 5:30-11:30 p.m., \$5 per person

#### ONE City-Wide Service Day

- Saturday, April 21
- 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

### College Ministry

#### 18-20 Somethings

#### Ignite – Sundays

- 7 p.m., The Point, downstairs

#### Discipleship Groups • Sundays

- Guys—9 a.m.  
The Point, upstairs
- Ladies—9:15 a.m.  
CE Bldg, Rm 304

#### Prayer Warriors

- Fridays, 7:30 a.m., CE Bldg, #304

Student Ministries questions?  
extension 2506/2508

## GriefShare Class

### Seminar/Support Group for Women

- Wednesdays, beginning May 9
- 6:30-8:30 p.m., 1325 11th Street
- For women grieving the death of someone close to them

#### GriefShare questions?

extension 2305 or e-mail Linda Choate  
at [lchoate@fbcmodesto.com](mailto:lchoate@fbcmodesto.com)

## Men's Ministries

### Saturdays Coming Up ...

- Paintball Games, April 21
- Motorcycle Ride, May 12
- Hot Rods/Classic Cars, June 23
- Rafting, August 18

### Men's Small Groups

- Various groups meet weekly
- Call for more information

#### Men's Ministries questions?

extension 2617

## Marriage & Family Plus 3

### Living Together In ...

#### grace ... truth ... surrender

*God has called us to become families bound to each other by the cords of grace, truth and surrender – the same cords that bind us to Jesus Christ*

- Sunday, 9 a.m.
- Pavilion Garden
- *So, How Much Have You Thought About This Thing Called Family?*  
What you may not have considered, led by Pastor Terry Benner
- *Developing a Friendship With Money*, led by Greg Crosby

#### Marriage & Family Plus 3 questions?

extension 2621

## LIFEGroups

### LIFEGroups – a place to belong

- Connect with other adults
- Call or go to fbemodesto.com

LIFEGroups questions?  
extension 2609

## The Next Level

Post-college age, single young adults

### Tuesday Night Small Groups

- 7 p.m., The Point, downstairs
- For career age and 20-somethings

The Next Level questions?  
extension 2506

## Kid Country

### Adult Bridges Ministry

- Volunteers needed to drive special needs adults to church on Sundays
- Sign up in the Kid Country Visitor Center or call the Kid Country Office

### Opportunity To Serve

- Change a child's life by serving in Kid Country
- Stop by the Kid Country Visitor Center or call the Kid Country Office

### Will it SPLAT? • Friday, April 20

- 6:30-8:30 p.m., Pavilion Garden

### The Armor of God Day Camp

- Monday-Friday, June 18-22
- \$18 per child (age 4 years by 12/1–grade 3 this fall)

### Super Camp

- Sunday-Thursday, June 24-28
- \$220, Silver Spur Conference Center
- Grades 4-6 this fall

\* Join us for Super Camp Kick Off  
Sunday, May 6, 10:45 a.m., Chapel

Kid Country questions?  
extension 2307

## Sentimental Journey

### Friday, April 13

- 7:30-10 p.m., Pavilion Concourse
- Music by *Knight Sounds*, light refreshments, fellowship, ballroom dancing for couples
- \$25 per couple, includes a free dance lesson earlier at 6:15 p.m.

Sentimental Journey questions?  
extension 2609

## Women's Ministries

### Small Groups

Call for times and locations

Sunday – *Jesus the One and Only*

Monday – encouragement and prayer groups

Perfect Gifts — for moms of children with special needs

Grandmoms in Touch

Tuesday – childcare for morning groups only

- Groups: *Believing God; Daniel; Acts; Live a Praying Life; What's So Amazing About God; Lord, Give Me a Heart for You; Lord, Teach Me to Study Your Word in 28 Days; Women of the Old Testament*

Wednesday

- *Romans Part 4*

Thursday

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

- 9:15 a.m., Pavilion Garden, first and third Thursdays; Bible study meets second Thursday; childcare available

Encouragement & Prayer Groups

- Various groups, call for details
- *Ladies in Waiting* — deals with infertility call 521-4143 for details

### Save the Date – SoulScape

- August 3-5, *The Great Escape*
- Retreat at Old Oak Ranch
- Registration begins June 3

Women's Ministries questions?  
extension 2306

## World Outreach

### Prayer for the World

- Monday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.
- 1325 11th Street

### Chinese Fellowship

- Sundays, 3 p.m., Pavilion Garden

### India Fellowship

- Sundays, 10:45 a.m., 1325 11th Street

### Laotian and Cambodian Fellowship

- Sunday, 10:45 a.m., CE Bldg, upstairs

World Outreach questions?  
extension 2622

## Young Marrieds & Young Families

### Sundays • 9 a.m.

- Build friendships, enjoy relevant life teaching
- The Point, downstairs

### Small Groups

- Meet weekly

### March Activity – Scavenger Hunt

- Saturday, April 21

New & Young Marrieds questions?  
extension 2609

## First B Saturday Night

Chapel @ 6:00

A worship service with the same relevant teaching and worship as Sunday morning, 10:45

Kid Country programs available birth through sixth grade

## Monday Night Church

### MNC Service and Dinners

- Mondays, April 9, 16, 23 and 30
- 6 p.m., Pavilion Concourse

### Volunteer to Help

- Childcare, sign language, prayer partners, food service

Monday Night Church questions?  
extension 2621

## Single Adults

### Single Focus Sundays

- 10:45 a.m., The Point, downstairs
- *Sitting on a Hill Talking to Folks: Past, Present and Future* by Terry Holliday

### Friday Night Kick-back Time

- 7-9 p.m., The Point, downstairs

Single Adult questions?  
extension 2621

## Recovery In Christ

### Ministries Support Groups

Substance abuse, dysfunction and dependency

### Groups Meet

Thursdays, 7 p.m.  
Pavilion Garden

Childcare provided, birth-sixth grade

- Various groups available

*Recovery groups available for men and women. Our Recovery Ministries is designed for people to work through difficult issues that cannot be worked through alone. We are here to help! Contact the Church Office for information on groups.*

Recovery In Christ questions?  
extension 2621

## Family Camp 2007

### Monday-Friday, July 23-27

- Register during the week in the Kid Country Office

Family Camp questions?  
extension 2307

## Park Café

- Join this fun and growing hospitality ministry, sign up in the Park Café on Sunday

Park Café questions?  
extension 2506