**SCC NEWS**

Spreading the Good News from

Santiago Community Church

**February 2013**

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**WORDS FROM THE PASTOR**

Now that you have broken all of your New Year’s **resolutions,** it is time to make more for **Lent!** You’ve broken your diet/exercise/reading/whatever resolution - now we have another chance. When I put it that way it sounds kind of depressing, doesn’t it? (Maybe you are one of the few people who actually makes and keeps their New Year’s resolutions.) I do think there is a difference between the typical New Year’s style resolution and the commitments that are often associated with Lent. Bear with me as I get a running start to explain

**Did you see the Super** **Bowl on Sunday?** It was a super Super Bowl outside of the lights going out. This is one of the most watched events in the world. However, as a US citizen and American Football fan, I am a little embarrassed by the name “Super Bowl.” We like things big and grand so “Super” sounds more spectacular than the National Football League Championship Game. My country is, after all, the country that calls its baseball championship the “World Series” even though only teams from two countries are represented. The NFL wants to make sure everyone knows we are watching men with **“super” human strength/speed/size/skill**. The Super Bowl is a **big extravaganza** that extends beyond the game itself with an elaborate half-time show and some of the most expensive commercials in the world. Maybe, super is the right adjective for this event.

 Lest those from Chile are too quick to mock our over the top expression, I would remind you that many in our country here also have a **fondness for superlatives**. I regularly go to the Jumbo “Super”mercado and buy my “Super” Pollo and “Super” Ocho, which are both “Super” rico. We humans do like to focus on the big and grand, the great and fantastic, sometimes at the expense of the beautiful in the small and ordinary. Here I think we might learn from another prevalent addition to many Chilean words. Early on in our time here we discovered the frequently used **diminutive** “ito.” You know this-- from the small casita, rosita, gatito, cafecito to the more endearing papito and abuelita. Grand or super things catch our attention, but I also like the idea that **the small, the personal** is also special and may be even more **important**.

 This brings me back to my opening. I think sometimes when we make New Year’s resolutions we focus on the grand and super changes we think we need to make. We see our flaws and want to change things right now and forever in a big way. Often this becomes an over reach and so we fail. At Lent on the other hand, we have an opportunity to focus on a shorter period, six weeks. During Lent as we think about **taking something on or giving** **something up**, ideally we are doing it out of love for God and for God’s people. We give up **simple things** like chocolate or texting, for example, as a way of reminding ourselves of the little joys and little gifts of life that we experience and give thanks to God. In the process we are reminded of our relationship with God or other people who are not as fortunate. Or we take up a new Bible study or a new spiritual discipline or act of service as one small way to open ourselves to God’s leading. Most of us do not go into these commitments thinking this will change the world or us in “super” dramatic ways, but it is part of our little act of worship or service

 Significantly, I find it is often through these **little acts done regularly** that God shapes us and uses us. Remember on Sunday a week ago we read the text from 1 Corinthians 12 about the body of Christ? Here Paul argues that we not get caught up in whose gifts or abilities are the greatest, the most super. Rather each person has gifts and each gift is important.

Martin Luther King Junior said, “**Everyone can be great**, **because everyone can serve**. One does not have to have a college degree to serve… One does not have to know the second law of thermodynamics in physics to serve. One simply needs a heart open to grace and a soul generated by love.” I also like a couple of quotes attributed to that simple servant, Mother Theresa. “Do not think that love in order to be genuine has to be extraordinary…**Be faithful in small things** because it is in them that your strength lies.” “What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family.” “Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you.”

God has chosen to use us simple human vessels to carry out God’s mission of love and grace in the world. (See 2 Corinthians 4:7) In the process God continues to fill us with and transform us by **the love of Christ**.

 Grace and Peace,

David

**SUMMERTIME…**

Even though summer is slower, we still have LOTS going on at SCC!!

Monday Bible Study

Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

 This women’s group meets in homes for

 Bible study and fellowship.

**Bible Breakfast Fellowship**

Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m..

 All men are welcome to start their day

 with breakfast and study!!

CHIMPS Playgroup

Wednesdays from 10:30 – Noon

 Children age 0 – 3 (along with a parent)

 are welcome for songs, stories and

 playtime in the Sunday School rooms,

**Young Adult Bible Study**

Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the church hall

 Bible study for late teens and 20s

**Women’s Bible study**

Thursdays at 1:00pm

 All women are welcome – we are

 studying Ephesians.

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**MARCH IS JUST**

**AROUND THE CORNER!!**

Several of our regular programs will resume in March, including **Ladies Guild** (Mondays from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. – knitting and tea for all interested and **Women’s Forum** (Thursdays from 10:45 a.m. – Noon, with speakers, videos and conversation). Special programs include:

**All-Church Picnic, Sunday, March 3 12:30 p.m.** Watch for details on the location of this fun social event.

**Inquirer’s Class – Sunday, March 10**

**Noon – 1:15 pm** Our pastor David Bubb leads this opportunity to find out more about the work and mission of SCC. Childcare is available. Please sign up by calling the church office.

**Ladies Guild Book Sale**

**Saturday April 6**

We will have 1000s of used books, mostly English paperback books, for $400CLP. Be sure to tell others about this sale!

**LENTEN PROGRAMS**

Lent is the season of the church year that begins 40 days (plus 6 Sundays) before Easter, and is often a time of reflection and repentance. Here are some opportunities for you during (or right before) Lent:

**Pancake Dinner**

**Tuesday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m.**

Join us for a “Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner”, a dinner of pancakes (fat and thin) with all the trimmings as we prepare to begin the season of Lent. Come for good food and learn about Lent! Bring your own drink. Suggested donation of $1.000 per adult.

**Ash Wednesday Service**

**Wednesday, February 13 at Noon**

We will be observing a traditional Ash Wednesday service in the chapel to mark the beginning of Lent.

**Lenten Study**

**The Gospel of John: An Invitation to Discipleship**. David Bubb will begin a study of the Gospel of John starting the second week of Lent (February 19). We will focus on the second half of the Gospel (Chapters 12-21) as a lead up to Holy Week and Easter. John’s Gospel is of a very different style from the other three Gospels, teaching in long discourses rather than parables or short sayings. We will study the Holy Week stories from the foot washing, to the long pastoral discourse, through the trial and crucifixion, to the resurrection. The first session will include a brief overview of the Gospel as well as a “bonus” look at the New NIV Bible translation that is an update of the 1984 version. Classes will be offered at lunchtime on **Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. starting on February 19,** **Wednesdays (lunch $2.000 at 12:45p.m., program at 1:15pm) starting on February 20** and **Sunday mornings at 9:15 starting on 24 February**. Childcare is available on Wednesdays and Sundays upon request Signups will be at the back of the church or you may call the church office.

**Marriage Workshop Saturday, April 13 from 10am – 4 pm at the church**

Set aside this time for your relationship, whether you are just engaged, newly-married or celebrating many years together. Childcare can be arranged upon request – watch for more information.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Our Sunday School continues throughout the summer, with three classes offered for those age 2 – grade 5. Starting on March 3 we will once again offer seven classes for our children and youth through high school. They will “move up” to their new classes on that Sunday.

We need a few more volunteers to serve as Sunday School helpers once every two months. No teaching needed – you are an extra set of hands. Contact Kathi if you can help. Kathi@santiagochurch.org 233-7557.

**SCRIPTURE VERSES**

**OF THE MONTH**

February – Matthew 4:4 – Jesus answered, “It is written: One does not live by bread alone, but by ever word that comes from the mouth of God

March - II John 1:6 - And this is love: that we walk in obedience to God’s commands. As you have heard from the beginning, God’s command is that you walk in love.

April - Psalm 139:23-24 - Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Be sure to post the verse where you see it daily. Say it together with family members at prayers, meals, etc. Memorize the location of the verse in the Bible, as well.

**CHOIR NEWS**

Our Choir Director Linda Craddock plans to start choir practices again on Thursday, February 21 at 6:30 pm in the church hall. All singers are welcome! If there is anyone interested in joining in for the Holy Week and Easter services, or indeed on a regular basis, she would very much appreciate it if they could let her know as soon as possible, and/or turn up on 21st or on Sunday 24th at 9:30 a.m. For more information contact Linda at 8-899-6726 or linda.belko@gmail.com.

**SUMMER CHILDREN’S PROGRAM REPORT**

Twenty children plus fourteen youth and adults spent a week experiencing “Love One Another”. We learned the Great Commandment (Love God and love neighbor) and how to apply it to our lives. We talked about loving people who are different from us, and had guests from Crescendo (the center for adults with intellectual disabilities). With “love in action” we hosted a tea for some of our older church members and led a food drive to help those who do not have what we have. Thanks to all who participated in making this week such a huge success!!

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**NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

**Baptisms:**

13.01.2013 Santiago Damián Fuentes Doré

**Weddings:**

17.11.2012 Juan Bitar Inostroza and Priscilla Nicole Gálvez Salas

24.11.2012 Jeffrey Lee Stevenson and Pamela Figueroa Silva

08.12.2012 Matías Ortúzar Montero and Eunice Bull Hereñú

22.12.2012 Patricio Rojas Ossa and Becky Jo Linton

**Funerals:**

13.11.2012 Margaret Hammond Meeson

10.12.2012 Bertha Caistor Hargraves

25.12.2012 George Short

30.01.2013 Peter René Grünholz

**Farewells:**

Michael and Erin Allen to the USA

James Doo and Penelope Lawrie, Isobel

and Henry to the UK

David and Vera Grander to the UK

Alistair Gibbons and Maria Jose to the USA

Pablo Moreno and Raeanne Anderson,

 Martin and Isabella to Canada

Peter and Janet Giacomini to Portugal

**Prayer Concerns**:

Pat Gomez

June Mackenzie

Mosea Grander

Patricia Leslie

Charles Knuth

Pablo Echaurren

Ian McDowall

John Scott

 **SCC FINANCES**

**END OF YEAR 2012:**

Total Expenses through December 2012

 98.050.877

Total Income through December 2012 99.853.417

**SURPLUS 1.802.540**

Thanks to all who so generously supported our 2012 Stewardship Program of time, talents and treasures. If you have not yet turned in your pledge form for 2013, forms are available at the back of the church or from the church office. Please remember that we are a self-supporting church, and we depend on the congregation for

all of our financial resources.

Stewardship:

Total pledged for 2013: $ 59.285.396 plus US$ 10.300 plus € 1200 (79 financial pledges)

**JANUARY**

Total Expenses through January 2013

8.764.180

Total Income through January 2013

5.619.516

**DEFICIT 3.144.664**

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**YOUTH PROGRAMS**

We had a great retreat from January 20-22 at Paul and Hazel Walbaum’s place for 9 of our youth. Our theme was “Walk This Way.”

Our youth groups will start up again in March:

**TP Club** - for our third to fifth graders (and those who have turned 8 by March 1)

**Cross Connexions** - for our sixth to eighth graders (and those who have turned 11 by March 1)

**The Open Circle (TOC)** – for high school students (and for those who have turned 14 by March 1)

Those in third grade and older are also encouraged to participate in our **acolyte program**. The acolytes bring the flame into worship at the beginning of the service (symbolizing the light of Christ) and light the candles. At the end of the service he or she carries the flame of Christ out into the world as he/she extinguishes the candles up front. This is another way we can include children in the life of our congregation. Contact Kathi for more information.

**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**

**Pool Party for the Girls from Hogar La Granja - Saturday, March 2 in the afternoon**

We are hosting a pool party at Bunny Yeoman’s house for the girls from Casa 4 at Hogar La Granja, a home for girls who have been removed from their families. Guests needed to help with food and interact with the girls. Watch for more details!

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**INVITE A FRIEND**

A survey released in the UK in 2007 found that one in seven adults in the UK attends a Christian church each month, while nearly **three million more people** say they would attend church if only they were asked.

As people return from summer holidays or move here to begin a new school year or new employment, why not invite them to one of the activities listed in our newsletter? It could be the best invitation that they get all year!

**CHURCH INFORMATION**

### CHURCH COUNCIL:

Council Chair – Victor Hawkins

Vice Chair – Anne McLean

Treasurer – Janet Hamilton

Secretary – Ailsa Shaw

Other members: Richard Collingwood-Selby, Laura Griffith, Janis Fuentes, Bunny Yeomans, Dimas Lopez, Arina Lewis, Andrew Chadwick

Office hours: 9:00 am -1:00 pm (M-F)

Office staff: Audrey Wilsdon

Phone/fax: 2232-1113

E-mail: office@santiagochurch.org

Web site:www.santiagochurch.org

#### Pastor: *-* David Bubb *–* 2233-7557

dkbubb@santiagochurch.org

Address: Avda. Holanda 151 Providencia

Postal address:

 Santiago Community Church

 Casilla 16144, Correo 9

 Providencia, Santiago