

Upcoming Events/Highlights

www.venturechristian.org

CONTENTMENT @ CHRISTMAS



This weekend, we kick-off our Christmas series, "Contentment @ Christmas." In a world that wrongly promises that more and bigger will fulfill our deepest desires, the truth from

God's Word cuts through the lies and allows us to experience a great and lasting contentment... regardless of our circumstances. Bring your friends and join us this weekend as we unwrap the meaning of contentment!

YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT r12... BUT WHAT IS IT?

It's relational discipleship based on Romans, chapter 12. r12 is not about being religious, keeping rules, developing programs, self-actualization, or spiritual formulas for success.

Rather, it's about taking inventory of your relationships and helping you find Biblical answers to some of the most important questions in your life. Bring your friends and join us in January for a church-wide r12 experience!

MINISTRY HUDDLE—THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

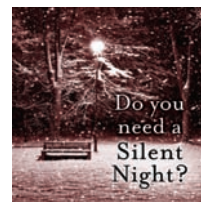
Just a reminder for our volunteer leaders—we're looking forward to seeing you this Sunday at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be reconnecting with you and going over upcoming events at the church. **If you can arrive early, we could use help setting up at 4pm and cleaning up afterward.**

START HERE—MEMBERSHIP CLASS NEXT SATURDAY!

Are you ready to get connected and become a member of Venture Church? Then join us next **Saturday, Dec. 12 from 8:30am to noon.** The "Start Here" Membership class will meet in the Fellowship Hall and breakfast refreshments will be provided as we kick the day off together.

Childcare will be available if you RSVP by December 8. RSVP to Karen Deeter (408.997.4622 or kdeeter@venturechristian.org), so we can be sure to have plenty of refreshments.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



Join us Thursday, December 24 for a candlelight service with Christmas carols and a special message. **Service times will be 4:00,**

6:00 & 8:00pm (childcare for up to 5 years will be available for the 4:00 & 6:00pm services only). Use the cards in your bulletins to invite friends!

YOUTH BASKETBALL NEEDS YOU

The Youth Basketball Ministry is in need of a very special volunteer... someone with a servant's heart and a tow hitch to transfer equipment to and from the Branham High School gym for Saturday games. If you are able to help out (Jan. 16 - Mar. 20), please contact Sports Minister, Donny Dequine (dcdequine@venturechristian.org or 408.997.4632) by January 11.

ADULT MINISTRIES

Sundays at Venture—



For information on classes available Sunday mornings, pick up a *Sundays at Venture* brochure at the Information Center. Following are some highlights of classes we offer:

Life Community Focus of the Week—Sundays at 9:15am: Act II (Room 216). Leaders: John & Gwen White (408.224.8405) and Kevin & Sandee DeBella (408.421.8411). This is a friendly group of men and women who grew up in the 60s, 70s, and early 80s. Our kids are graduating from school, and our retirement is on the horizon. Single or married, we all face these and many other changes in our lives. Not old enough to get the “Senior Discount” but too old to do the things of our youth... we are definitely in transition. Looking to make lasting friendships in this part of your life? Then the Act II group is for you. Join us for fun, fellowship, and applying the teachings of the Bible to our daily lives.

Life Community Focus of the Week—Sundays at 11am: Seekers (Room 214). Leaders: Frank and Bev Buxton, & Penny Hess. Teacher: Gary Hess. Our group is composed of warm, friendly, and faithful members of all ages. We have times of fellowship and prayer each week and social events throughout the year. Our current study is in I and II Timothy and Titus. We are looking at the church—its formation, mission, and purpose.

Adult Elective Focus of the Week—Sundays at 9:15am: Blended Families (Ranch House). Leaders: Frank and Beverley Buxton. Blended families are

a fact today that we mustn't ignore. They have very special needs. Join us for this video study by Dr. Kevin Leman to help bring peace and harmony to families who have been joined together through remarriage.

50 Plus Singles: Join us Sunday, December 13 for lunch at Bucca de Beppo in the Pruneyard Shopping Center



at 1:30pm and then on to the **Bethel Christmas Spectacular** (1201 S. Winchester; free admission) at 4pm. For more information, please contact Jorgi Stanford (408.892.5560).

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The **December Global Ministries Prayer Calendar** is available at the Information Center. Bless our missionaries through individual prayer throughout the month.

Coat and Food Drive Update: Thank you so much to all of you who donated! We delivered 55 bags of really nice clothing as well as 5 sleeping bags, and we collected just under 1000 pounds of food!

HEALING MINISTRIES

GriefShare: This support group for those grieving the death of a loved one meets Mondays from 7-9pm in Room 219. **Note: GriefShare meetings originally scheduled for December 21 & 28 will now meet January 4 & 11 instead.** For more information, please contact Anne (408.997.0713 or anne47@sbcglobal.net) or Eva (408.972.1729 or evas@pacbell.net).

DivorceCare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people

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who are separated or divorced. Join us Wednesdays at 7pm in Room 217-218. **December 16 will be the last meeting of the current session, and a new session will begin in January.** For details, contact Frank and Bev Buxton (408.225.3624 or bjbuxton67@sbcglobal.net).

Venture's Celebrate Recovery Friday nights now at FCC: Venture's CR Friday night ministry has combined with Family Community Church, so the Friday meetings are now being held at FCC. The Wednesday 12-Step groups will continue at Venture to complete their nine-month commitment. FCC's group meets on Fridays at 7pm in their "Café." Childcare is provided through 5th grade. For more information, contact Mindy Scratch (408.365.0313).

Joyful Rebounders: If you are a woman who has found herself "alone again" after a divorce or the death of a spouse, then this group is for you! For details, contact Sybil Ruggles (408.356.8860).

MEN'S MINISTRY

The Herd Men's Ministry Tuesday Night Bible Study: Join us Tuesdays at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall; we're currently studying the Book of Matthew. For more information, contact John White (408.224.8405). Come run with *The Herd*!

The Herd's Jonathan Group: Find strength to live up to the calling God has given you. God never intended for you to go through life alone. Even King David, a man after God's own heart, needed Jonathan in his life. The Jonathan Group meets in small groups of 2-3 every Tuesday from 6-7pm in Room 215. For details, contact Joe Rechenmacher at (408.265.4626).

SPORTS (adult)

Open Tennis for all Adults: Join us **Wednesdays from 6-8pm** and **Sundays at 4pm** at **Leland High School** (6677 Camden Ave). Please contact Stephanie Dunkle (408.226.8714 or shepaintsalot@yahoo.com). *Please call before heading out to make sure someone will be at the court.*

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Middle School: We meet Sundays at 11am and Tuesdays at 7pm in Room 305. Beginning in January, we will also meet Saturday nights... stayed tuned for more details. For more information, contact Rob Walter (408.997.4660).

High School: We meet Sundays at 11am and Tuesdays at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our San Francisco mission trip is this weekend. Please continue to keep us in prayer. For more details on Student Ministries, visit www.VentureStudents.org or contact Dave Molchan (408.997.4661)

College: Join us Sundays at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATES:

- **January 12, 13 & 14:** New Women's Bible studies begin
- **January 16:** Join us from 9:30-11:30am at the "new" C.A.F.E. (Coffee And Friends Engaged) to "Meet and Greet" our newest pastors' wives.

VCC Prayers & Squares (quilting ministry): We meet the second Tuesday of each month.

For more details on Women's activities, visit VentureChristian.org.

AMERICAN TROOPS PROJECT —CHRISTMAS PACKING



This is the last weekend for dropping off items for the Christmas shipments to our troops. If you would

like to join us in packing the boxes Monday (Dec. 7), we will be in Room 224 from 4:30-8pm. For more details, please contact John and Millie Evans (408.267.2363).

PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

Join the Thursday Prayer Team from noon to 1pm in Common Ground as we pray about topical issues for our country and leaders.

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER WILL RESUME JANUARY 9-10

Our pre-service prayer time will resume in January. For more information, please contact Judy Porter (408.480.4029 or judy@portermarais.com).

STANFORD BLOOD DRIVE

Give the Gift of Life this Christmas season! The next Blood Drive at Venture will be Monday, December 14 from 1:00-7:00pm in Common Ground. Sign up online at <http://bloodcenter.stanford.edu>. Click on "FIND A BLOOD DRIVE," then on "Los Gatos," and then the date of December 14.

START YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HERE...

Visit Venture's growing Resource Center in Common Ground (just across the patio from the Worship Center). We have a number of DVD series and books available for purchase. Enjoy a free beverage if you stop by between the 9:15 and 11am services.

SMALL GROUP UPDATE

Most of our small groups will be taking a break over the Christmas season, but in **January** we will be launching a brand **new series, "r12: True Spirituality."** If you didn't get the opportunity to find a small group this fall, stay tuned... there are more great things to come in the new year! For more information on Venture's Small Group ministry, visit VentureChristian.org.

VENTURE'S LIBRARY

On the shelf this week: **Libby's Story**



by Judy Baer. They are two hurting people. Nothing more. Or are they? Libby Morrison is attractive, single, and thoroughly immersed in caring for

her aging parents. Reese Reynolds is drowning in self-pity from a gunshot wound that has left him paralyzed. A chance encounter begins their unlikely—and unpredictable—story. Along the way, Libby's childhood friends Jenny and Tia help her learn that true love overcomes enormous obstacles. The sequel to *Jenny's Story*.

VENTURECHRISTIAN.ORG— IT'S A GREAT RESOURCE!

If you need any information about Venture, would like to listen to the weekend messages, like donating online, or want to sign up for our weekly news email—visit **VentureChristian.org**. It's an easy way to stay connected and get many of your questions answered.

WEEKEND SERVICE TIMES:
Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 8, 9:15 and 11am.

