

## WayPointe Charts New Course

**M**irroring Richmond's rich history of "Can Do" spirit, WayPointe is charting a new course—launching its PEACE Plan.



During World War II, Richmond became an epicenter of home front spirit and industrial production—The Kaiser shipyards, based in Richmond, produced more

Liberty ships than any other shipyard in the country, and still holds the record for the fastest ship launch, the Robert E. Perry—from keel to launch in less than 5 days. The rallying cry—"We Can Do It"

*"Our vision, states Pastor Gary Cooper, 'is to transform our communities, One life at a time. Like the war effort of the past, this is a huge undertaking that takes everyone's spiritual focus. It's all hands on deck—and to action. With The Lord's help, We Can Do It!'"*

WayPointe has decided to wade into an urban setting that struggles with crime, literacy, health and social justice inequities. At the same time, we see a major shift in the area, with massive

new housing developments on the City's perimeters and revitalization of the City center, both bringing an upscale culture.

*"Amidst the changing economic and social climate, states Pastor Gary, 'there is an estimated 85% unchurched—the lost, the least and the lonely in West County who we are committed to reach, regardless of their social status.'"*

The **PEACE** Plan is our navigational chart to reach the people and transform West County.

**P**lant Multiple Sites— With the dramatically changing landscape of new residential areas, multiple sites address the demographic variety.

**E**quip Servant Leaders— Training today's leaders for tomorrow's ministries is a major commitment at WayPointe. In 2007 the church has committed to three major training sessions; Leadership Training II, Pastoral Care & Counseling; and Biblical Communications to develop our leaders. In addition, many of our lay pastoral leaders have been sent to conferences or training events to strengthen their specific ministry skills.

**A**ssist The Poor— Poverty takes many forms, and large areas of West County live within a 'culture of

poverty' economic, relational, social and spiritual. WayPointe and it's Community Clusters are committed to address poverty in a variety of ways. For instance, the Pinole Cluster recently teamed with The Salvation Army and Mervyn's Department store to run the annual "Child Spree" event in Richmond.

**85% of the West County population is unchurched**

**C**are For The Lost, The Least & The Lonely— Once again, our Community Clusters are in the vanguard of caring for those who are forgotten. (See *Painting The Town... in this issue*)

**E**ducate The Next Generation— The people of WayPointe will be investing heavily in time, talent, and treasure to aide our ailing school system and it's students. Already members are involved in literacy training as well as developing educational initiatives in partnership with the area's Chamber of Commerce.

## Pastor's Ordination Celebration...

**J**une 24th was a special day for Pastor Barbara Cooper.

The American Baptist Churches, USA, with the full Amen of the Board and congregation of WayPointe Christian Fellowship ordained her as a Pastor.

Amongst the friends and family in attendance, Dan Gates, formerly a pastoral staff member, represented the Denomination and the Western Region. His remarks, 'Charge to the Candidate' and finally presentation of the certificate of ordination, were cheered by all.

The morning service—designed by Pastor Barbara so that everyone could attend, was a hit with everyone. "Wow" exclaimed one

longtime member, *'I've been here a long time, and never witnessed an ordination. It was truly moving.'*

Barbara's children and grandchildren were in attendance. With her eldest grandson Alex, joining in—playing saxophone with the worship team for the morning celebration.

Pastor Barb's message was intended for young and old. She wove her life journey—including her call to faith and ministry into her comments.

Citing the Apostle Paul's words to the Galatians churches; *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus..." (3:28)* Barbara



*in some form of ministry."*

With a rich experience in leadership and counseling, Barbara left a high level seminary position to serve first as a volunteer

and now in a part time status, working alongside her husband, Gary.



encouraged the congregation, regardless of age, gender or ethnicity, to seek the Lord's leading and consider His calling in their life.

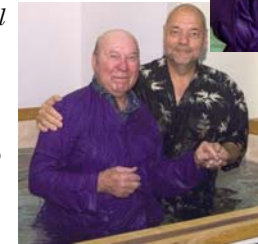
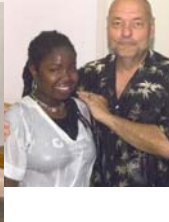
*"I have concluded that with the Lord, it's never too late to serve*

## Baptisms—Making a Huge Splash...

Midway through 2007, the people of WayPointe have some real celebrating to do. Already, the church has celebrated triple the number of baptisms of 2006. Now in double digits, the church has logged close to fifteen baptisms, teens and adults who have made a commitment to follow Jesus Christ. *“Baptism, is a public profession of a personal commitment to Christ,*

*remarked Pastor Gary; ‘following one’s personal profession of faith, it’s the next logical step for a new believer to take.’*

Following a short class on the subject, each attendee is given the opportunity of taking part in a baptism. Many took part in the Easter Sunday celebration, while others took part in our recent pool baptism and picnic. *“I can’t describe it,’ enthused Joseph Wright, ‘I came out of the water feeling so different. I couldn’t believe all the people who came out to celebrate this day with me. I am blown away”* **We are too!** Take the plunge and sign up for the next baptism class.



## Cross THE BRIDGE— This September

With all the new believers, many from other faith backgrounds—or none at all, the questions regarding the Bible and other issues of faith and practice are flying. *“What’s the Old Testament about? Who’s King David? How do I grow as a Christian?”* Great Questions! All of these and many more will be addressed – not just for beginners, but for those who have decided to dig a bit deeper in their faith journey.

The Bridge is an alternate opportunity to worship and grow in ones faith. Acoustic worship, informal style (*we know, how can anything be more informal than Pastor G’s Hawaiian shirts?*) and light snacks will make these Sunday evening events a great place to grow as individuals and

as a worshipping community.

Scheduled for the 2nd Sunday evening of every month, beginning September 9th, The Bridge will start with the foundation, *The God of The Bible*, and build from there.



The Bridge will be an interactive worship-learning experience with successive events designed to build a strong bridge of faith and practice, that one can use for everyday living.

These *‘invite a friend’* events will be a great way to start your Fall.

## Clusters & Contacts

El Cerrito Cluster	5 PM Sun.
Charlie Stone	559-1015
El Sobrante Cluster	7PM Mon.
Lonnie Allgaier	223-2237
Hercules Cluster	7PM Tue.
Drummonds	964-1850
Java & Jesus	8AM Wed.
Pt. Richmond—Starbuck’s	
Java & Jesus	6:30AM Thur.
Hercules—Starbuck’s	
Pinole Cluster	7PM Thur.
Joel & Janet Smith	234-4395
Richmond Cluster	7PM Tues.
Andrea’s	234-7427
Arts Cluster	Pending

## Painting The Town WayPointe Style...

**S**ome people ‘paint the town’ by partying, while the El Cerrito Cluster teamed up to serve so that others less fortunate might celebrate.

Imagine yourself as a frightened child, a ward of the County; or imagine yourself as a prospective foster parent. Now picture your first meeting in a drab room of a tired government office building. The first place where foster children and prospective parent’s meet, *“The Receiving Room has long been neglected and need of redecorating’*, exclaimed Candace Yates of the County’s Children & Family Services Division. *“I*

*can’t believe these folks took their days off to paint this place, it looks absolutely great.”*

Alerted to the need of a decorating miracle, Charlie Stone and others answered the call for service, painting the walls, and even decorating them with cartoon characters. *“We had an absolute blast’* the team enthused. *‘We had a number of folks who heard about our service project, and asked if they could join—kind of like Tom Sawyer.’*

This service project is just one of the many ways our Clusters are making a difference in our communities.

