

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
CONCORD, CA

A PLACE  
TO WORSHIP  
TO GROW  
AND TO  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE

# CROSSROADS

AUG. 21-SEPT. 3, 2006

## "New Beginnings"

### Annual Planning Event

August 26

Join us THIS SATURDAY, Saturday, August 26, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. as FCC Concord will host an **Annual Planning Event** in which all members of the congregation will participate in laying out all the events of the next year! In this event, each person and Ministry Team will be oriented to their task, past programming will be reviewed and evaluated, and the emphasis and events for the year ahead will be generated.

We are very fortunate to have Dr. Ben Bohren, Regional Minister, who will remind us what we are about and inspire us to be creative and set lofty, measurable goals for the year ahead! Our theme for the day will be "New Beginnings" and will center around the Great Commission found in Matthew 28: *"God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life"* (The Message).

Each person is asked to bring an object/item that represents a meaningful growth moment for them in their experience within this congregation.

Please notify the church office TODAY by calling 925-685-7503 or by email to Emrys@concordfcc.net and be a part of the **New Beginnings** God has in store for us!

### Thank you

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, cards and food. All your support has helped my family and myself to deal with the loss of my son. I do appreciate everyone's help.

God bless, Shirley Hall

## Serving In Worship...

**August 27, 2006**

"Dress Code"

Ephesians 6: 10-20

**8:30 AM**

**Elder:** Rick Marr

**Deacon:** Don & Cookie Orescanin

**10:45 AM**

**Table Elder:** Wendy Collins

**Offertory Elder:** Ellie McDougal

**Time for Children:** Ellie McDougal

**Diaconate:** Don DeGiobbi [captain] Mark or Julie Hood, Collier Laird, Al & Bev Lockwood, Luz Porto, Pat Watson

**Ushers:** Elaine Ortiz [captain] Patti Halter, Janet Hecker, Lisa Crays

**September 3, 2006**

"Being Intimate with God"

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

**8:30 AM**

**Elder:** Diane Maltester

**Deacon:** Greg Mitchell &

Cho Nai Cheung

**10:45 AM**

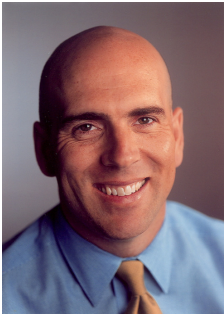
**Table Elder:** Carolyn Partney

**Offertory Elder:** Debbe Hughes

**Time for Children:** Carolyn Partney

**Diaconate:** Hugh McNamar [captain] Mike Hecker, Tom Kilpatrick, Kate Landberg, Lori Landberg, Diana Sage

**Ushers:** Elaine Sherman [captain] Linda Smith, Ruth Langley



## Compass

### "First Things First"

by Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister

Peter Drucker is a famed teacher and business consultant. He has made a career out of asking two simple questions: "What business are you in?" and "How's business?" While it is important to remember that the church is not a business, we can still gain great benefit from asking ourselves these questions from time to time, simply changing the language. We can ask ourselves, as a community of faith: "What is our purpose?" and "How's it going?"

There was once an Episcopal bishop that would ask every candidate for ordination that came before him one simple question: "What is the first thing that you would do if the church building were to burn down?" There was one simple answer that was expected: "take up an offering for mission."

This former Bishop was pretty sharp, for he knew that the future of the church depended upon whether or not its leaders clearly understood why the church exists at all. I think I would expand that a bit and suggest that a church's future depends upon not only its leaders understanding why it exists, but also every member needing to be clear and certain about what we are called to do and be.

This clarity of purpose is something that we are working on. There is a Visioning Team that is working tirelessly to be able to articulate who God is calling us to be in the next 3-5 years. That process involves many things, but the most important thing of all is listening. Listening to the membership, listening to those outside the church, and listening to God.

We are called, as a community of faith, to participate in the ongoing work of God, and to invite others into that process. We are called to give ourselves away to the hungry, hurting world in the love, spirit and name of Jesus Christ. We are called to always be looking outward, resisting the temptation to turn inward and become a "holy huddle."

How would you articulate our mission and purpose? And how would you respond to that bishop if you were standing before him? If you would say, "take up on offering for Outreach" or "feed the homeless" or "take our youth to Mexico to build houses for the poorest of the poor", then you would be right in line with Talmadge Johnson, a former retired minister, who said, "the greatness of a church is not determined by what it takes in, but by what it sends out."

It is my constant joy to serve alongside of you in this great congregation that seeks constantly to give itself away in love. Never are we more like God than when we do that.

Grace and peace,

## Memories of Summer Camp

This past July, I experienced one of the best things in my entire life: CYF1 summer camp at the Community of the Great Commission (CGC). This year the theme was "Peace Talks" and the directors were Russ Peterman and Joy Richardson. I learned so much that week and I think that's what made it stand out against my other years: it had substance. We had amazing people (campers and counselors) who really wanted to be there. It was a great week filled with fun, laughter, prayer, spiritual growth, and crying (at the end).

The food at CGC has been...well, less than satisfying in years past, however I'm glad to say that this year that was not the case. The food was wonderful especially since they cooked a separate vegetarian meal for the three vegetarians there this year. The campgrounds were, as always, home. It is amazing to me that there is still a place where everyone can be themselves and not be an outsider or labeled. Everyone is welcoming and accepting and I love being a part of that.

One memory that I will, hopefully, remember for a very long time was when Russ and Joy woke everyone up at midnight on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning and said we were going stargazing. So we go to the dining hall's parking lot because there's not as many trees there, but to get there we have to go through the trails in the woods so we won't wake the dogs by the main road. I didn't bring a flashlight and I have absolutely no idea where we were (I don't think Russ did either and he was leading us there!). We get

**Continued next page**

*Disciples Hurricane Recovery Begins as Anniversary Approaches*



As the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's deadly and devastating assault on the U.S. Gulf Coast approaches, it is becoming clearer and clearer that the recovery and rehabilitation efforts will take years, even a decade. Nearly 2000 people were killed, and Mississippi and Louisiana alone suffered more than \$75 billion in damages. More than 1 million people were initially displaced and tens of thousands of people are living in temporary shelters throughout the country.

To date, Disciples through Week of Compassion have provided nearly \$2 million dollars to support relief and initial recovery needs in response to Katrina, Rita and other hurricanes that made 2005 the most disastrous hurricane season in meteorological history. And now, in partnership with other Disciples and ecumenical partners, WOC is preparing to launch a major two- year, \$2.5 million hurricane recovery initiative - a significant part of which calls for Disciples to send 750 work groups to the region between September 1, 2006 and August 31, 2008, to five Disciples mission stations and several interfaith recovery organizations across the Gulf South.?

*The Transformation Van is Heading Our Way!*

This year is the Christian Church of Northern California/Nevada's Year of Transformation! In the coming weeks the Region's Transformation Team will be traveling to every geographic area, bring the transformation theme to as many local church members as possible so that each congregation is empowered and enabled to go about God's transforming work in their particular context. The van's visit to each area will help connect with other folks from Disciples churches who are responding to the God who proclaims, "Behold! I do a new thing!"

The van will be in our area on Sunday, August 27, at 5 PM at the Lafayette Christian Church and will offer "Transforming Congregational Culture sessions such as:

- Healthy Conflict in the Church
- Growing Your Spiritual Life
- Disciples Identity
- Leader Development Among Laity
- Hospitality
- Evangelism



Dinner will be provided. It would be GREAT if FCC Concord could show up in force to discover ways that we can each, individually and as a community, become TRANSFORMERS for the God who is on the move!

Please register through the regional office, by calling 925-556-9900 or [gus@ccncn.org](mailto:gus@ccncn.org)

**(From previous page)** there, lay down on the pavement, in our pajamas, and look up. It looked like there was no darkness, there were so many stars. We saw a lot of shooting stars and had a great time both looking at the stars and walking there and back.

I am so happy that I got to go this year and can not wait until next summer!

With peace, Meg Sumner-Moore

<i>Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	9. Matthew Hecker	20. Aidan Partney	3. Janet & Mike Gay
<i>September 2006</i>	Mike Cluster	24. Zakary Gay	8. Elaine & Earl Ortiz
3. Sally Bender	10. Tiani Powers	25. Don DeGiobbi	21. Diana & Scott Carlisle
4. Kelly Mayes	12. Sue Sumner-Moore	26. Vicki DeLaurenti	
6. Christine DeBella	16. Jamie West		
7. Laura Leonard	18. Mandy Hanks		



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
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*Staff:*

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Office Manager:	Emrys Lloyd-Roberts:	emrys@concordfcc.net
Organist:	Robert Coslett	
Custodian:	Daniel Blanton	
Website:	ww.concordfcc.net	

*Contact Information:*

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Address: 3039 Willow Pass Rd., Concord CA 94519

**CROSSROADS**

Diana Clay Carlisle, editor [crossroadsedit@concordfcc.net](mailto:crossroadsedit@concordfcc.net)  
Email submissions and subscriptions to: [concordfcc@earthlink.net](mailto:concordfcc@earthlink.net)  
Submission deadline for next issue: Monday, 9/4 11:00 a.m.

***All submissions are subject to editing!***

*Update on the Search for the Director of Music Ministries*

For the past several months the search committee has been looking for just the right person to serve as the next Director of Music Ministries for our congregation. This position was to be funded for one year by undesignated funds in the Memorials Fund.

At a recent meeting, however, the decision to fund that position was reversed and the search has been called off. The reasoning behind this is that we are looking at a very significant budget deficit already, and it would not be wise to add an additional staff person into the mix when we are already struggling to make ends meet.

While this decision is understandable, we are blessed to have such wonderful musicians in our congregation already. Robert "Coz" Coslett is one of the finest church musicians in the Bay Area, and our worship band, *The Way*, is exceptional. We will continue to lift our thanks and praises to God in worship in wonderful, creative ways.

Much thanks to the search committee who gave of their time and talents during this process: Scott Sumner-Moore, Ed Ulibarri, Diane Maltester, Robert Coslett, and Russ Peterman.