

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
CONCORD, CA

A PLACE
TO WORSHIP
TO GROW
AND TO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

APRIL 31-MAY 14, 2006

CROSSROADS

Michelle Harris to serve as Student Associate

We are thrilled to announce that Michelle Harris, a student at Pacific School of Religion will serve as our Student Associate Minister during the 2006-2007 school year. As part of her Field Education work, Michelle will be involved in the central elements of the pastoral ministry of our congregation such as preaching, teaching and pastoral care.

Michelle is currently in her first year at PSR. Originally from Southern California, she spent the last several years working in Indianapolis with DATA, an organization dealing with issues of Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa, as well as the Indiana Public Health Association. Michelle has a degree from Chapman University in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Social Services, and a minor in Peace Studies. As you can imagine, she has a passion for social justice and sees that as a spiritual discipline. In addition she has gifts in dance and performance art, as well as experience in graphic design.

Michelle is engaged and will be married this summer to Matt Gloyer, who is also a PSR student and works with Lafayette Christian Church and Habitat for Humanity.

We are incredibly excited about Michelle working with us starting in the fall, and welcome her energy, passion, creativity and spiritual depth!



ANNUAL MEETING

The 152nd Annual Meeting of the Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada was held at the Asilomar Conference Center on April 28 – 30. The theme for this year's annual meeting was: Transformation: God's Power At Work Within Us.

Disciples gathered in that beautiful place to worship, sing, give thanks, celebrate, learn, take care of business, have fellowship with old and new friends, and plan for the future.

The excitement was in the air as we shared this experience. Our inspiring speakers were Rick Lowery, professor of Old Testament from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President, Ben Bohren, Transitional Regional Minister and President and Sandhya Jha, Minister of Transformation.

At the business meeting we looked at the work and mission of the Regional Church. Three congregations were recognized as congregations "in formation" within our region and one was granted full standing. Two candidates were approved for ordination.

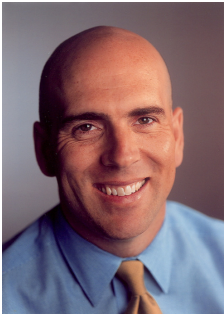
Concord Church was recognized as one of the top 5 churches in giving to the Disciples Mission Fund.

If you have any questions feel free to speak with either of our delegates -

Ellie McDougal or Wendy Collins

In Memoriam

By The Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister



In the midst of Holy Week, the world mourned the death of a great prophet, The Rev. Dr. William Sloane Coffin. For years Coffin was the chaplain at Yale, and later served as the Senior Minister of the Riverside Church in New York City. He had a strong passion for

justice and was very active in the civil rights movement as well as being a very vocal advocate for nuclear disarmament. Much of his ministry focused on speaking on behalf of those who had no voice, and became a prophetic voice of Christian conscious for many generations.

During my final year of seminary, Coffin was a visiting professor. When I heard he was going to be teaching here I signed up immediately. I learned more in that semester about ministry – about being both prophetic and pastoral, sometimes simultaneously – than any other class.

In celebration of his life and ministry, I offer you some of his words.

"Of God's love we can say two things: it is poured out universally for everyone from the Pope to the loneliest wino on the planet; and secondly, God's love doesn't seek value, it creates value. It is not because we have value that we are loved, but because we are loved that we have value. Our value is a gift, not an achievement."

"I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap, and then you grow wings."

"Spirituality means to me living the ordinary life extraordinarily well. As the old church father said, 'The glory of God is a human being fully alive.'"

"In the Holy Land are two ancient bodies of water. Both are fed by the Jordan River. In one, fish play and roots find sustenance. In the other, there is no splash of fish, no sound of

bird, no leaf around. The difference is not in the Jordan, for it empties into both, but in the Sea of Galilee: for every drop taken in one goes out. It gives and lives. The other gives nothing. And it is called the Dead Sea."

"Too often the churches have taught that the opposite of love is hate, just as they have taught that the opposite of peace is conflict. What the opposite of peace is I am not sure. I know it is not conflict, maybe not even violence; perhaps it is injustice. But as regards love, I am sure the Bible is right: the opposite of live is not hate but fear."

"We all belong one to another. That's the way God made us. Christ died to keep us that way. Our sin is only and always that we put asunder what God has joined together."

"Diversity may be both the hardest thing to live with and the most dangerous thing to be without."

"I think we know far more of God's heart than we do of the mind of God."

"Compassion and justice are companions, not choices."

"There are two ways to be rich: one is to have a lot of money; the other is to have few needs. Let us remember that Jesus – who influenced history more than any other single person, institution, or nation – died, his sole possession a robe."

"The way we are cutting taxes for the wealthy and social programs for the poor, you'd think the greedy were needy and the needy were greedy."

"The primary problems of the planet arise not from the poor, for who education is the answer; they arise from the well-educated, for who self-interest is the problem."

"Our faith should quell our fears, never our courage."

I am incredibly grateful for the life and ministry of William Sloane Coffin, for his passion for all that is possible, and for all that he was, by nature and by grace.

With lot's of hope,

Explore Membership at FCC

*Wonder how FCC Concord works?
Looking for a community of faith?*

Please join us for our next
Inquirers Gathering:

**Tuesday, May 16 @ 7PM,
in Russ's office**

This is your chance to: Meet our minister; ask questions about the church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the meaning of membership, and life in community. It's also a chance to get to know fellow visitors and members.

Interested?

Contact Russ, at the church office
(925/685.6703).

*No matter who you are or where you are on
life's journey, you are welcome here.*

Quarterly Statements

Statements are now available in
the Narthex.

Please collect yours as soon as
possible.

Thank you to all who have
pledged.

Save the Date

On May 28, 2006 we will be celebrating
Hazel Sawyer's 90th birthday.

Everyone's welcome to attend our party!

Peace Talks



Aloha • Be Still • Shalom • Ubuntu • Agape • Heiwa

Birthdays

May

- 1. Lonnie Graves
- 6. Mary Lou Alley
- 9. Kay Jezek
- 11. Estella Stephenson
- 13. Patti Halter

*Please notify the church office of any
corrections, changes or additions to this
list.*

Family Camp (All Ages)	May 27-28
Chi-Rho (Entering grades 7, & 8)	July 9 - 15
CYF 1 (Entering grades 9 & 10)	July 16 - 22
CYF 2 (Entering grades 11, 12 & grads)	July 23 - 29
Junior (Entering grades 4, 5 & 6)	July 30 - Aug 5

All Summer Camp Programs take place at
the **Community of the Great Commission**

For Registration packets:

See your church office,

Call the Region at 925-556-9900, OR

Visit us on the web at www.CCNCN.org



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Staff:

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman
Director of Youth Ministry: Sarah Partney
Office Manager: Emrys Lloyd-Roberts
Organist: Robert Coslett
Custodian: Daniel Blanton

Contact Information:

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 8 am—4 pm.
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Web Site: www.concordfcc.net

CROSSROADS

Diana Clay Carlisle, editor

Email submissions and subscriptions to: crossroads@concordfcc.net

Submission deadline for next issue: Monday, 5/14 @ 11:00 a.m.

Mexico Mission 2006

Benefit Concert

June 10th @ 7:00 PM

First Christian Church

3900 Willow Pass Road

Concord, CA 94520

Please join us for a fun filled night of music with performances by:

Josh Elson

The Way

Cost: \$20 for adults \$15 for youth (6-18)

5 and under free

Tickets go on sale Sunday, May 14th.