

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
CONCORD, CA

A PLACE
TO WORSHIP
TO GROW
AND TO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

CROSSROADS

SEPT 18-OCT. 1, 2006

Weekly Prayer Group

Beginning October 9th I would like to facilitate a weekly prayer group. We would meet for 6 weeks to have a light soup supper and pray.

What will we be praying for? We will pray for our church, the leaders, the members, the region, the young adults, the youth. Our church is going through a time of growth and change and I believe that we need a dedicated group of people who will commit to meeting for the next 6 weeks (and beyond if that's what we decide). I'll provide the meal and all you have to do is show up.

When: 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20 Time: 6pm - 7:30pm (meal served 6-6:30, prayer 6:30 - 7:30)

Where: 433 Gilger Avenue, Martinez, CA 94553

RSVP:

(925) 372-7272 or wcollins@pixar.com

If you have any questions or great ideas please feel free to contact me.

Blessings and love,

Wendy Collins

Prayer Group

Serving In Worship...

September 24, 2006

"Practicing Our Faith:

Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People"

Discerning"

Romans 12: 1-2

8:30 AM

Elder: Rick Marr

Deacon: Don & Cookie Orescanin

10:45 AM

Greeters: Wendy Collins, Steven, Rachel and Brooklyn Jeffreys

Table Elder: Ellie McDougal

Offertory Elder: Wendy Collins

Time for Children: Paula Rose

Scripture Reader: Judi Carlisle

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

October 1, 2006

"Practicing Our Faith:

Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People"

Welcoming

8:30 AM

Elder: Janet Gay

Deacon: Greg Mitchell & Cho Nai Cheung

10:45 AM

Greeters: Estella Stephenson & Cecelia Ambach

Table Elder: Debbe Hughes

Offertory Elder: Carolyn Partney

Time for Children: Lynne Hile

Scripture Reader: Lori Landberg

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

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



Compass

Knowing God

— by Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister

In seminary my area of focus was Christian Education. I thought it was important to find creative ways to teach people about God. I learned about lesson plans, praxis, and pedagogy. After graduation I entered the church armed with arms full of ideas and a head full of knowledge. I was going to change the world, one person at a time.

I quickly discovered it wasn't enough. I discovered in short order that knowing *about* God was not the same as *knowing* God.

No one knows that more than Elaine Pagels. She's a professor of New Testament at Princeton, and has written books about the Gnostic Gospels as well as the Gospel of Thomas. She knows a lot about God, but she reached a point in her life when she no longer knew God or where to find God. She had stopped going to church a long time ago.

One Sunday morning she found herself standing sweaty and in her running clothes in the open door of a church --listening to the music, hearing the prayers, sensing the depth of the community of faith. In her book, *Beyond Belief*, she writes that she thought to herself: "this is a church that can handle death".

Her two-year-old son had just had a heart transplant. In the process, they learned that he had a fatal lung disease that would take him from them shortly. She says that her church and the Sunday School class that met in the basement saw her through the darkest days of her life. She came to know God again through the community of faith.

More often than not we come to know God through the shared life of faith lived out with our brothers and sisters who journey alongside of us through the highs and lows of life. We know God when we stand beside one another without trying to fix or heal, just loving one another in the midst of our brokenness as well as our blessedness.

The truth is, we need one another. The Christian life cannot be lived in isolation. We count on one another to show us what it means to be people of faith. The way God provides for our deepest hopes is through the hands and hearts of others, and sometimes our own.

In the 4th Century that Basil of Caesarea, also known as St. Basil the Great, asked, "If I live alone, whose feet will I wash? What scope will a person have for showing humility if he (sic) has no one before whom to show himself humble? What chance of showing compassion, when cut off from the fellowship of others?"

Each week this community of faith gathers at 3039 Willow Pass Road to not only reconnect with friends, but also to embody grace. We do this that others may know not just *about* God, but also that they will *know* God.

It is my deep pleasure to make this journey with you.

Grace and peace,

Fall Sermon Series

PRACTICING OUR FAITH

Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People



September 24

Discerning

October 1

Welcoming

October 8

Slowing

October 15

Serving

October 22

Giving



Seeds for Stewardship

**"The habit of giving only
enhances the desire to
give."**

— Walt Whitman

Late Service Greeter Schedule

Oct 1	Estella Stephenson & Cecelia Ambach
Oct 8	Toni Barmore & Patti Halter
Oct 15	Gloria Mattson & Millie Parsons
Oct 22	Linda Smith & Pat Watson
Oct 29	Bill and Bev Plambeck

October 2006 Birthdays

1. Emrys Lloyd-Roberts
6. Joan Payne
7. Kym West
8. Scott Carlisle
9. Bobby Schneider
10. Clay Carlisle
11. Clayton Hertz
14. Christopher Rollins
16. Dottie Canfield
19. Gordon Nadeau
20. Janet Hecker
22. Michele Watts
24. Marty Appel
26. Nancy Gillis
27. Annie Maltester
28. Paula Rose
30. Bob McClintic

Anniversaries

3. Cheryl and Garry Huff
16. Don and Kathleen DeGiobbi

Harvest Dinner

Mark your calendars for food, fellowship and fun! The Fellowship Committee invites you to join us for a Harvest Dinner on Saturday, October 21st. We will celebrate together and give thanks for the abundance of gifts that God has given each of us. Watch for more details in the upcoming weeks.

CWF Soup Luncheon

Save Sunday, November 5 for the CWF Soup Luncheon, right after second service here in Fellowship Hall.

There will be a Tupperware display, with the option to purchase. Think about buying Tupperware for the Mexico Mission gifts for Christmas, or even for yourself.

The Annual Hat Raffle will also take place at this event. Don't forget to buy your ticket! - More details later.

Upcoming Youth Events

Calendar Stuff for youth:

September 24th-Youth at 6:00pm
 September 30th-Youth Overnight 6:00pm
 October 1-No youth in the evening
 October 7-Fall Fest in Woodland
 October 8-Youth at 6:00pm

Chi-Rho and CYF Youth Overnight!



September 30, 2006 @ 6:00pm

Friends are Welcome!

Please Bring: A sleeping bag, pillow, change of clothes, basic toiletries and a snack to share with the group!

Fall Fest 2006 - Peace Rocks!

On October 7th join the youth of our region along with our youth group for Fall Fest at Woodland Christian Church. Our keynote speaker this year is Rev. Larry Love and music will be brought to us by Rev. Danny Bradfield.

Come 'rock' with us from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. as we sing, worship, learn and serve together.

Registration forms will be available in the church office or you may call or e-mail Sarah for more information: (925) 507-0636

Counting Our Blessings

There was a time in my life (almost twenty years), when I truly believed I could worship God outside of church, in my own way, on my own time. I was one of those people Russ spoke about in his sermon last Sunday. But no matter how much I tried, or how much I prayed, I never felt truly connected to God. Something was always missing. In my prayers, I always felt selfish--constantly asking God for just one more favor.

It took my then three-year old daughter asking why we didn't go to church for me to realize my children would never really learn about or know God if I never brought them to church. Now, I don't know what I would do without this church family. The relationships and "family" we have made here are priceless to me.

I have known ever since I joined this church that it is a very special place. Over these past 12 years, being a part of this congregation has brought many blessings to me and my family. In fact, this congregation has helped me through one of the most difficult times of my life. Being asked to be the chairperson of the Stewardship Ministry Team has made me stop to consider more deeply all the ways this church, its people, and God have impacted my life. I have come to some powerful, overwhelmingly joyful revelations.

It is in this place called First Christian Church that I connect to God on a regular and very real basis. It is through this community of God that I see, hear and feel God working and speaking to me. Through every friendly hello, every smile, every hug, every prayer; through every message from the pulpit; through every song; through sharing communion every week; through witnessing the love of God in hand after

hand reaching out to help others--time and time again. Without this place and all of you, God's people, I cannot truly experience the grace of God. It is through this community that I *experience* God at work. And it is in this place that I can truly experience the joy of giving back to God--whether it is offering my time and talents, or my financial resources. I no longer feel like I am only *taking* from God. But am I really giving to God all that I can, my own personal best?

I also have to confess that I take this church for granted. I expect it to always be here. I expect this church to maintain the programs that have always been in place. And I admit I find it much easier to give of my time and talents than of my money. When Russ introduced the idea of "Testing the Tithe" for one month, I thought "How am I going to do this?" We had just had unexpected car repair bills and overspent on our vacation. After praying about it, I know in my heart that putting God and this church as a priority in my life is what I want and need to do. "Testing the Tithe" is my way of making this sacred place and all of you, His people, a priority. Please join me in "Testing the Tithe" for the month of October. Then, together, may we know the joy of giving back to God in return for the many, many blessings we have received.

Lori Landberg

Chair of the Stewardship Ministry Team

Pictorial Directory Update

People have been asking when the new pictorial directory will be issued. Many of you were photographed months ago during the two day sessions held at our church. However, there were a significant number who were unable to have photographs taken. We have been trying to arrange a new date so that all members can have their photographs included. We want our directory to be the best possible, and the most useful to us as a church family.

I am working with the representative from LifeTouch trying to arrange another date here in our own church to photograph those who were unable to have it done the last time. We are hoping to be able to schedule this next session for a Saturday. To achieve this, we need to have a

Continued on page 5

From page 4

firm commitment from those who still have not had photographs taken from the directory. We need at least 20 'families' - a 'family' being a single person or a group of people being photographed at the same time.

I know that some of you went to one of the sessions, but after a long wait, had to leave before photographs were taken. I have discussed this with the LifeTouch representative. I trust that this will not happen again.

If you are interested, could you please contact me at the church office:

By email—emrys@concordrfcc.net

Or by Telephone—925-685-7503.

Once I have firm numbers, I will be able to make the necessary arrangements with LifeTouch.

Thank you for your patience. I believe that the new directory will be worthwhile, especially if everyone is included in it. We would love to have all our members, friends and regular guests included.

Praise God!

Emrys Lloyd-Roberts
Office Manager

Reconciliation Special Offering Sunday, September 24, 2006

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has a history dating from the 1960s of sharing our resources to address the racism of our society and the racism within our own church. We have called this process the Reconciliation Mission.

We receive this offering in the fall and use the funds throughout the year to give grants to the anti-racism initiative to organize to dismantle racism and to offer grants to address the effects of racism.

The 2020 Vision adopted by our church names this work as one of the four priorities of our mission together as a whole church. This voluntary annual offering is the only source of funding for this ministry.

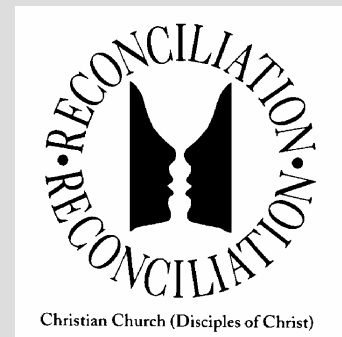
The form of this ministry may be changing, but the need for addressing racism has never been more obvious.

As our church grows and becomes more diverse, our mission of reaching out to people with the Good News of Jesus will be compromised if we have not addressed the racism in our own church and in our communities.

This is not a time to pull back from this mission just when our church has begun to add so many new ethnic congregations. This is a time to leap forward in this work and reach deep in prayer and organizing to stretch toward the new church we are becoming together.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Mission Special Offering will help us as Disciples work on that task in our region and in our wider community of faith. Please know that 100% of the monies that come in for this offering will go to support the reconciliation ministries of this denomination, and 50% will remain right here in this region where they will be used to eradicate racism by addressing local issues of poverty, justice and peacemaking.

Please give generously.





**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Staff:

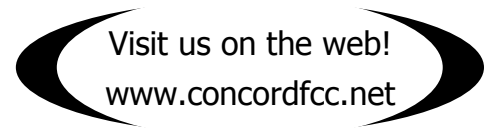
Senior Minister:	Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman:	russ@concordfcc.net
Student Associate Minister:	Michelle Harris-Gloyer	michelle@concordfcc.net
Director of Youth Ministry:	Sarah Partney:	sarah@concordfcc.net
Office Manager:	Emrys Lloyd-Roberts:	emrys@concordfcc.net
Organist:	Robert Coslett	
Custodian:	Daniel Blanton	
Website:	www.concordfcc.net	

Contact Information:

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 8 am—4 pm.
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CROSSROADS

Diana Clay Carlisle, editor crossroads@concordfcc.net
 Email submissions and subscriptions to: info@concordfcc.net
 Submission deadline for next issue: Monday, 10/2 11:00 a.m.



All submissions are subject to editing!

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 24

8:30 am — Early Worship / Sanctuary
 9:30 am — Sunday School for All Ages /
 Education Wing
 10:45 am — Worship / Sanctuary
 6:00 — Youth Groups (grades 6-12) / Youth Building

Monday, 25

4:00 pm — Staff Meeting
 7:00 pm — Visioning Team / Discovery Room
 7:00 pm — Elder's Meeting / Discovery Room

Tuesday 26

12:30 pm— Diving Deeper Group / Church Office

Thursday 28

8:00 am — Spiritual Moment / Church Office

Sunday, October 1

8:30 am — Early Worship / Sanctuary
 9:30 am — Sunday School for All Ages /
 Education Wing
 10:45 am — Worship / Sanctuary
 1:00 pm CROP WALK / Walnut Creek Civic Park

Monday, 2

4:00 pm — Staff Meeting
 7:00 pm— Elders / Library

Tuesday, 3

12:30 pm— Diving Deeper Group
 7:00 pm — Worship Team / Senior Pastor's Office

Thursday, 5

8:00 am — Spiritual Moment / Church Office