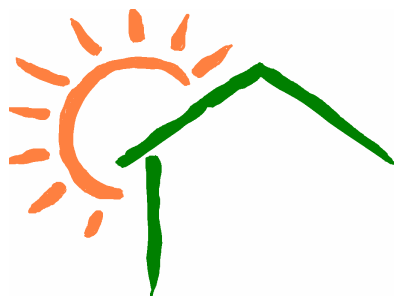


CROSSROADS

Homelessness Task Force Looking for Volunteers



As you are probably aware, we have become a preferred resting place for several homeless individuals over the past several

months. We have been struggling with how best to respond to this situation – as Elders, as the church board. On the one hand, we want to practice true Christian hospitality. We say that ALL are children of God and welcome in this place. But on the other hand, we also need to provide a safe campus for the children of the Montessori school, as well as all those who come to this place. No one wants to feel threatened or scared when they come to church!

At a recent board meeting, it was decided that we should form a Task Force that will meet to discuss and prayerfully discern how we should address this situation. What is God calling us to do about this situation, and how can we be faithful to that calling?

If you are interested in being a part of this discussion, please contact Russ Peterman, at 925.685.7503, or by email at russ@concordfcc.net

We will be meeting soon. And even if you don't feel called to be a part of this discussion, please keep this group in your prayers.

Welcome New Members

It is with great joy that we welcome four new members to our congregation!

On April 1, **Donna Darden** placed her membership with us. Donna and her family go back many years with this congregation, having participated in many Mexico Mission Trips while a member at Trinity Baptist church in the years that they went with our congregation. Donna is married to Bob, and the mother of two grown daughters, Darcy and Lindsey. Donna is an employee of Chevron. When she joined this congregation, she said she felt like she was "coming home." Welcome home, Donna! We are glad that you are a part of this congregation. You can send notes of welcome to Donna at 1951 N 6th Street, Concord CA 94519-2215.

On Easter Sunday, April 8, we welcomed two new members who joined the church "officially" when they were baptized. **Katie Benson** is in the 7th grade at Martinez Middle school, and is the daughter of Lynne & Greg Hile. Katie enjoys drama and recently had a part in her school play, Annie. Making her baptism day even more special was the fact that it was her 13th birthday!

Also on that day, **Emily Morgan** was baptized and joined the church! Emily is the daughter of Lisa and Todd Morgan and is a 4th grader at Mt. View Elementary. She is a delight and loves to laugh!

This past Sunday, April 15, we were thrilled to welcome into membership **Roseli Walker**. Roseli has been attending for the last several weeks after finding this congregation so welcoming and nurturing while attending Estella Stephenson's memorial service! Roseli is the librarian at Mt. View elementary and a good friend of both Janet Gay and Ellie McDougal (by the way, that makes FOUR elementary school librarians in the congregation, in case you are counting!). Roseli is originally from Brazil. She is the loving mother of a teenage son, and the proud owner of a new puppy. Roseli lives at 5372 Clayton Road, Apt. A, Concord CA 94521.

We are thrilled to welcome these wonderful people into membership and look forward to serving along side of them in ministry!



Compass Practicing Resurrection

by The Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister

A couple weeks back, in the days leading up to Easter, several of my clergy friends and I fired emails and phone calls back and forth asking one important question, "Do you have any good ideas for your Easter sermon?" We shared all kinds of stories and illustrations. I mentioned this to someone after the service on Sunday, and she said, "When you talk to them again, I would complain!" I asked her what she meant, and she boldly pointed out, "You aren't getting the good stuff!"

The truth is, most of us preachers have a love/hate relationship with Easter. It's hard to talk about. What can you say that hasn't already been said? And the culture makes it even more difficult. Bunnies laying eggs? What's up with that? And more importantly, what do those bunnies have to do with resurrection? All of this leaves us feeling a little fuzzy, wondering "What does an empty tomb mean for us when we have errands to run and bills to pay? Especially when there isn't any real proof of how it all went down!

In Matthew's telling of the Easter story, he points out that when Jesus finally appeared to the disciples, "they worshipped him; but some doubted." Even some of the disciples, standing face to face with the risen Lord, doubted what had happened!

In her memoir, *Practicing Resurrection: A Memoir of Work, Doubt, Discernment and Moments of Grace*, Nora Gallagher writes that "we spend so much time believing or not believing in the resurrection that we may have missed the point. What the resurrection is not about is the appearances of Jesus, but what those appearances point to in our own lives. Do we make them into superstitions or use them as stepping stones to new life – how do we practice resurrection?"

When confronted with the doubting disciples, Jesus simply says, "Go therefore and make disciples..." He doesn't say, "Go into the world with clever arguments and four points that prove this really happened." He is saying, essentially, go live out the resurrection!

What would that look like in your life? What part of you needs a fresh start? What part of your life is crying out for reconciliation? What part of our community needs a new beginning?

I heard someone say recently, "The greatest cure for doubt

is to DO something!" In other words, if you want to know that the tomb was truly empty, practice resurrection!

There really is something to this Easter thing, something important about witnessing to the hope and joy in our everyday life, with the memory that the spirit of Jesus is before and behind us, calling upon us to practice resurrection.

With lots of hope,

Greeters

"Greeters" please arrive by 10:30 am and welcome members and guests as they arrive for the 11:00 am service through the main entrance doors. Guests need to be shown where to sign the Guest Book. "Greeters" usually seat themselves shortly after the beginning of the service.

Pat yourselves on the back! Give your neighbor a hug! We have almost made it through the whole member roster, and it has been nearly a year since we began the new "Every Member a Greeter" campaign. Our next goal is to have our early service folks hang around for Sunday School and take a turn at being a Late Service Greeter before heading home. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know the "other" service members of our church family. Yeah us!!

Janet Gay

Chair, Hospitality Team



April Greeters

April 22—The Raymond Family

April 29—The Gay Family

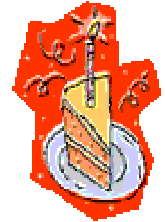
May 6—Elaine Ortiz and Elaine Sherman

*Serving In Worship...***April 22, 2007****John 20: 19-31**Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, preaching
"Looking Death in the Eye"**9:00 AM****Elder:** Diane Maltester**Deacons:** Ken & Pat Rishell**11:00 AM****Greeters:** The Raymond Family**Table Elder:** Ellie McDougal**Offertory Elder:** Debbe Hughes**Time for Children:** Lynne Hile**Scripture Reader:** Judi Carlisle**Diaconate:** Denise Schneider [captain] Pattio Halter, Matt Hecker, Janet Hecker, Lynne Hile, Andie Raymond**Ushers:** Doris Hamblin [captain] Kay Waggoner, Dee Laird, Gloria Mattson**April 29, 2007**

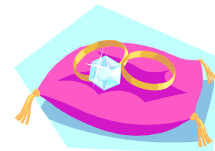
Rev. Paul Gaffney, preaching

9:00 AM**Elder:** Janet Gay**Deacons:** Todd & Lisa Morgan**11:00 AM****Greeters:** The Gay Family**Table Elder:** Wendy Collins**Offertory Elder:** Carolyn Partney**Time for Children:****Scripture Reader:** Hugh McNamar**Diaconate:** Gloria Mattson [captain], Bill Plambeck, Dean Henry, Emrys Lloyd-Roberts, Kym West, Elaine Sherman**Ushers:** Mike Hecker [captain] Luz Porto, Jan Eversole, Kate Landberg*May Birthdays*

1. Lonnie Graves
6. Mary Lou Alley
9. Kay Jezek
13. Patti Halter
17. Linda Smith
18. Ysabella Portello
19. Nina Nicholas
- Denise Schneider
20. Angelina Nadeau
22. Millie Parsons
24. Katie Maltester
25. Bill Parsons
26. Arlene Kopshy
- Dean Henry
28. Pat Twigg
29. Ian Rose
30. Hazel Sawyer
- Meg Sumner-Moore

*Anniversaries*

1. Bill and Diane Parsons
22. Collier and Dee Laird



Please let the church office know if your birthday or anniversary is missing or is listed incorrectly

Easter Thank You!

Fellow Worship Team members will agree that without the help of Ruth Langely, and Chris Walker, our Easter Decor would not have been as grand. What troopers they were, unpacking boxes, and boxes of lilies, Ruth swabbing the decks, and putting her special cleaning fluid on the pews.

Thank you thank you thank you thank you!

Worship Team:

Rick Marr

Linda Smith

Deborah Hughes

Dr. Russ Peterman

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday May 20th at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The congregation will vote on a new slate of officers, elders and deacons for the coming year. We will also vote on a resolution to adopt the Visioning Team recommendations for a new mission statement and the refinement of our administrative and ministry leadership structure. We hope to see you there!

God Squad Thank you

Dear God Squad,

We would like you to know that your work around our church campus is noticed and appreciated. Everything looked beautiful for Easter. We were proud to welcome our friends and family members to our church.

Thank you so much for your time and energy.

With love from your church family.



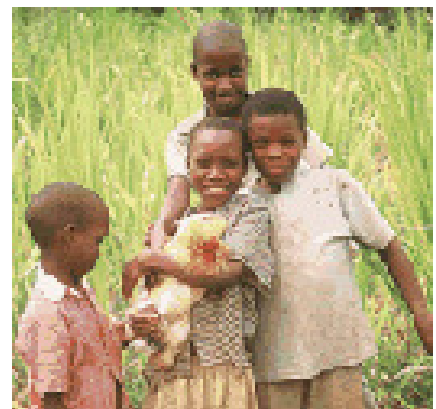
Heifer Project.

The Heifer Project has arrived! Beginning Sunday, April 15, and continuing through May 12th, the children's Sunday School Classes, from Chi Rho through Kindergarten, will be focusing on Heifer International. We will be learning WHAT it is, HOW we can help, and WHO we will be helping, and WHERE these people live around the world.

Heifer provides food and income-producing animals, as well as intensive training in animal husbandry, environmentally sound, sustainable farming and community development. For more information, you can go to www.heifer.org.

ALL of you are invited to participate in this very worthwhile effort. Let me know how you would like to help.

Blessings,
Carolyn Partney
Co-Chair, Outreach Team



Youth Group News

Calendar

April

22:

Sponsor Meeting

4:00pm

Youth Group

6:00-7:30



29:

No youth group
due to annual
meeting



Save the date!

May 6

12:30 JYF

Youth group

6:00-7:30

A note from Sarah:

As many of you know, I celebrated my birthday on April 15th and I was so blessed to celebrate it with all of you! I felt so special to have such wonderful people surrounding me with love! You all are the best. I love you guys!



Mexico Mission Info:

Thank you to all of you who turned in your forms and deposits on time! Registration is now closed for our 2007 mission.

Please remember to save the date of **May 12, 2007**. We will be meeting in Woodland for our **MANDATORY** community building event. At this time **all balances will be DUE**. You will receive an e-mail one week prior to the meeting that will state your remaining balance. There have been large donations coming in so keep up the good work and we will see you on May 12th in Woodland!





**2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
JULY 21-25, 2007**

Based on Matthew's account of Jesus feeding the crowd of 5,000 men (plus women and children), the theme, 'Share the Feast' claims the abundance of God's grace and providence in the face of apparent adversity.

Jesus and the crowd of followers meet up in **Matthew 14: 13-21**, right after the well-known prophet John the Baptist has been murdered. In this moment of crisis, Jesus sets out for retreat to pray, but encounters the crowd, which seeks him when they hear about John's death. In the end, rather than send them away empty, Jesus not only heals them, but feeds them, with a scant five loaves of bread and two fish. All eat and are satisfied and they take up 12 baskets of leftovers.

This text reminds us that, as cultural shifts leave Disciples congregations and wider ministries in the midst of unsettling change, we are right to seek out Jesus. In the midst of our challenges, Jesus offers a healing touch and an invitation to share in the feast of his abundance.

**In joyful, faithful response to such
a gracious gift,
we too "Share the Feast"
with the world around us.**

Dear church family --

The news out of Blacksburg, VA over the last few days has been horrible and heart-wrenching. Our hearts break again at the reports of yet another school shooting; another episode of senseless violence.

As we struggle, trying to figure out how to respond, I know you join me in praying for the students of Virginia Tech (two of whom were in my youth group in Atlanta -- I'm glad to report that they are both safe), their families and all those effected by this horrible tragedy.

Secondly, I want to say that if you need someone to talk with about your own response to this tragedy, or the feelings it has raised in your own life -- I'm available.

Finally, I offer this prayer written by a Presbyterian colleague in Atlanta. I can do no better, and so I pass it along to you (with his permission).

Grace and peace to you all,

~Russ

God of compassion, we are shaken.

*In Blacksburg, in the terrible violence of yesterday,
our worst fears became real.*

*Young people striving for a future were gunned down
with insane cruelty.*

*There will never be a good way to explain these
events.*

*So, in the absence of reason and light, in a time when
our hands tremble, when we can find so little that is
stable to grasp, we ask, we pray, we plead that you
will hold on to us.*

*Hold on to family members who cannot comprehend...
Hold on to friends whose souls have been crushed...
Hold on to students across this country who are
shaken, so shaken... Hold on to us all.*

*As our faith shrinks and our fear grows, hold on to us,
God.*

*Surround all who have been touched by this tragedy
with a sense of your present love. Cling to them.
May we who are lost in grief this day be found and
comforted by you.*

*This we pray through Jesus Christ, the Crucified One,
whose Easter life is our certain hope in just such a
terrible time as this.*

Amen.

*written by Scott Black Johnson, Senior Pastor,
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA*

A Personal Reflection on Stewardship

In the course of four days this week, I was reminded in very real ways of how precious, and fleeting, life can be. On Saturday, we learned that a 36 year-old friend (a wife, a mother of two young boys and a courageous role model for many) had lost her valiant battle with Leukemia. On Monday, 33 people, mostly young college students, died at Virginia Tech in a horrific, senseless, and tragic way. And today at my daughter's high school, I witnessed an elaborately staged, but extremely realistic and very emotional, program on the effects of drunken driving called 'Every 15 Minutes...' Then, I pick up the newspaper and see more headlines on the rising death toll in Iraq and other places around the world. It is almost more than my mind, and certainly my heart, can handle. It is in times like these that I find myself questioning how and why these things can happen; wondering where is God in all this; and looking for answers where perhaps there are none. And I pray.

It is exactly at these same times that I am reminded that although there are many things over which we have little or no control, there are many things we CAN do to make this world a better place-- a place where God's love and grace ARE evident. I just have to look around our congregation to see God's stewards working—endlessly and tirelessly—in many different ways. I see people constantly offering help to each other in countless ways. I see people coming onto our campus every day to get food from the SHARE pantry. I see homeless families being housed and fed as part of Warm Winter nights. I see our youth and young adults gearing up for another Mexico Mission Trip to build homes for families in Tijuana. I see people working around the church to keep up the grounds, working to put on Worship services and many, many other activities of the congregation. And I see financial offerings given to both pay for the expenses of these efforts and to reach out to the ministries of the wider church.

What keeps me knowing that I CAN and DO make a difference is what I see right here at First Christian Church every week in the form of stewardship. I see God at work! The gifts of time, talent and treasure that the people of this

congregation put forth every day of every week are evidence to me that God is truly here with us, even in times of chaos in the world around us. When events can seem so overwhelming, I find solace in knowing that God IS with us and in remembering how blessed I am by God. I am reminded that there is no time to waste in this precious gift from God called life....

"Dear God, May we give gladly and gratefully to others each and every day, in the name of your love and grace. Amen."

Lori Landberg
Chair, Stewardship Ministry Team

Financial Statement

At the end of March, our year- to-date giving was \$50,854.53. We had other income making a total income of \$65,872.76.

Our expenses were \$67,845.22.

Pat Watson,
Chair, Finance Team

AN INCLUSIVE, LOVING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND JUSTICE,
SEEKING, CELEBRATING AND SERVING CHRIST THROUGH OPEN
MINDS, COMMITTED HEARTS AND WILLING HANDS.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN CONCORD**

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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Address: 3039 Willow Pass Rd., Concord CA 94519

CROSSROADS

Email submissions and subscriptions to: info@concordfcc.net
Submission deadline for next issue: Monday April 29, 2007 11:00 a.m.

All submissions are subject to editing!

Visit us on the web!
www.concordfcc.net

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 22, 2007

9:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
10:00 am—Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
6:00 pm— Youth / Youth Building
6:00 pm – Church Bowling League / Paddock Bowl

Monday, April 23

3:30 pm — Staff Meeting / Senior Pastor's Study

Tuesday, April 24

12:00 noon—Diving Deeper Group / Church office
7:00 pm—Pastoral Relations Team / Discovery Room

Wednesday, April 25

6:00 pm—Visioning Team / Russ Peterman's home

Thursday, April 26

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office

Friday, April 27—Sunday April 29

Annual Meeting at Asilomar Conference Center

Sunday, April 29, 2007

9:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
10:00 am—Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
6:00 pm— Youth / Youth Building
6:00 pm—Church Bowling League / Paddock Bowl

Monday, April 30

3:30 pm—Staff Meeting / Senior Pastor's study

Tuesday, May 1

12:00 noon—Diving Deeper Group / Church office
7:00 pm—Worship Team / Library

Wednesday, May 2

7:00 pm—NOOMA/ Russ Peterman's home

Thursday, May 3

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office