

CROSSROADS

Reconciliation Grant Received to Help Fund a New ESL Ministry

by Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister

When the Visioning Team was hard at work last year discerning who God is calling us to be, one of the things we focused on was how we can best reach out in service to the ever-growing Latino population in our community. One does not have to live here long to know that this particular demographic is a strong presence that continues to grow. In fact, research statistics show that *the fastest growing population in this area is Latino*.

The Visioning Team took some time to think of ways that we could practice Christian hospitality by serving our local Latino community—not in hopes of gaining new members, but simply to offer a place of hope and transformation for those who have been alienated by our culture, and even our government. Recent debates around immigration have created a culture that is often suspicious and inhospitable to those new to this country. What we want is to provide a sense of welcome in the face of such suspicion. After much prayer we concluded that God is calling us to offer free ESL (English as Second Language) classes to adults who live in and around our community.

We saw the benefits of a ministry like this as being two-fold. First, and most obvious, is that we would serve a segment of the population that would benefit tremendously from learning the dominant language of our country. Secondly, we recognize that a ministry like this could have a tremendous impact on us as well. We will benefit from *practicing* our faith and *living* out the gospel. We have an opportunity here to understand on a deeper level who our neighbors truly are and to be in conversation and relationship with them.

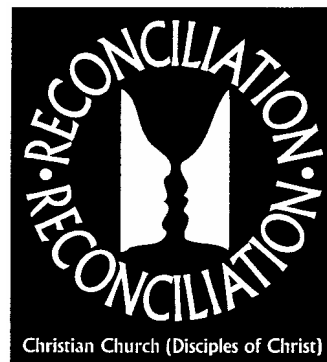
We spoke at length with a congregation in Oregon who operated a similar program for several years, and they spoke of the incredible blessings that have emerged from their ESL program—both for their congregation, and the surrounding community. They have now

begun offering SSL (Spanish as a Second Language) learning opportunities to those who would like to be better able to communicate with their neighbors!

Several months ago, after encouragement from the regional staff, I applied for a grant through the Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church in Northern California-Nevada to help fund this new ministry. Last week we received word that we received a Reconciliation Grant in the amount of \$1,500 to get this new ministry off the ground!

I am incredibly excited about this and see it as a *huge* affirmation of the direction God is leading us!

And so now the real work begins! In the next several weeks I will be looking to form an ESL Ministry Team to plan and implement this exciting ministry opportunity. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please let me know. It will be a ministry that will require lots of effort and hours. And it will be a ministry that will bless us in ways impossible to imagine. Please prayerfully consider if God





Compass

Re-Creation

-- by the Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister

As you read this I am spending a vacation week with my family in the mountains, enjoying some time away from the busy-ness that is so often life. It will be a good week filled with rest and recreation.

Recreation is a word that we use so often and in so many ways it's meaning has been diluted. But its meaning and purpose are crucial in our on-going lives. For when we allow time for recreation we are in a sense allowing God to *re-create* part of who we are and who we are constantly becoming before the busy-ness of our lives wore us down and out. Time off and away allows us to step back from our daily tasks and routine and rediscover what is important in our lives after all: spending time with family and friends and with God.

It's interesting to me how our culture and our country look at time away. I recently read that in some places in Europe it is mandatory that all employees take off at least four weeks a year for vacation and recreation. Many positions here in the states give no vacation time until they have been there a year or so.

Our society has become one that values and rewards the over-achiever and the workaholic. They are the ones who are often held in high esteem and given kudos for the efforts they put in. But at what costs?

I have never heard a dying individual, when asked what he or she would have liked to have done with their lives, say that they wished that they

could have spent more time at the office! In looking back, most wish they spent more time with their families.

This summer I encourage you to take some time for yourself -- and for God -- and allow some time for re-creation. Re-discover who you are and listen for what you are called to do. Read a book. Take naps. Spend time with your family and renew old acquaintances. Take 18-hole prayer walks (my personal favorite). Whatever you do and however you do it, listen to God and allow God time to *re-create* in you a vision of who you are called to be.

Peace and rest,

August Sermon Series



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|--------|--|
| Aug 12 | <p>"First, Do No Harm"
Job 38
Rev. Greg Hile, preaching</p> |
| Aug 19 | <p>"Degrees of Separation"
Genesis 11: 1-9</p> |
| Aug 26 | <p>"The New Seatbelt"
Romans 8: 18-25</p> |

*Serving in Worship...***August 12, 2007****Job 38****Serve God, Save the Planet**

"First, Do No Harm"

Greg Hile preaching

9:00 AM**Elder:** Scott Sumner-Moore**Deacons:** Mike Cluster**11:00 AM****Table Elder:****Offertory Elder:** Lynne Hile**Time for Children:** Lynne Hile**Scripture Reader:** Chris Walker**Greeters:** Cecelia Ambach and Scott Bisbee**Ushers:** Elaine Ortiz [captain] Hugh McNamar, Luz Porto**Diaconate:** Don DeGiobbi [captain] Tom Kilpatrick, Al and Bev Lockwood, Sue Sumner-Moore and Meg Sumner-Moore**August 19, 2007****Genesis 11:1-9****Serve God, Save the Planet**

"Degrees of Separation"

9:00 AM**Elder:** Kelsey Gross**Deacons:** Todd and Lisa Morgan**11:00 AM****Table Elder:** Denise Schneider**Offertory Elder:** Ellie McDougal**Time for Children:** Claire Richardson**Scripture Reader:** Alex McDougal**Greeters:** The Carlisle Family**Ushers:** Elaine Sherman [captain] Linda Smith, Ruth Langley**Diaconate:** Collier Laird [captain] Scott Bisbee, Patti Halter, Matt Hecker, Andie Raymond, Mary Raymond

Birthday missed last edition

August 10—Tammy Nadeau

*Crossroads by Email*

In an attempt to have good stewardship of the church's resources, and God's resources by being 'green', we encourage anyone who is currently receiving *Crossroads* by mail, but who could receive it by email, to contact the church office at emrys@concordfcc.net and let us have your email address. We will be happy to send you *Crossroads* the day of issue by email. It's quick, efficient, saves trees and costs less.

What could be better than that!

Needed

We need a small apartment sized refrigerator for the Deacon's closet in the church.

If you have a fridge that you are willing to donate to the church, please contact Bill Plambeck 925-672-2670.





Mission Springs Retreat

September 13-14 and 15-16

Theme: Simple Gifts - Celebrating the gifts we give to Ourselves, To Others, To the World.

Speaker: Rev. Cathy Myers Wirt

Registration forms are available on-line at www.ccncn.org or in the church office.

Young Adults

August 10-12 – Young Adult Retreat at Camp Tuolumne Trails near Groveland, CA – just 30 minutes from Yosemite National Park
www.uccr.org/TuolumneTrails.htm.

“Community Wanted: Inquire Within”

This retreat will be a fabulous weekend for building relationships, enjoying the beauty of the outdoors, asking important questions of faith and life, and having tons o’ fun! There will also be an optional Yosemite hike on Sunday afternoon!

Register by July 17:

<http://www.ccncn.org/07YARetreatReg.pdf>.

SAVE THE DATE:

September – Young Adult BBQ

Mark your calendar now for a potluck barbeque at Tilden Regional Park.

Ideas, concerns, questions?

Please contact us at matthew@ccncn.org and michelle@ccncn.org.

We would love to hear from you!

Super Summer Sunday Series

FCC Concord Has Talent

August 19th

6 - 8pm Fellowship Hall

Please contact me if you would like to be in the talent show on Sunday, August 19th 6pm – 8pm. We are looking for musicians, comedians, dancers, gymnasts, Poets, storytellers and anyone with talent. I only have ONE person signed up so far. Let’s make this a night of fun and sharing. All ages needed! Please call me at 925-372-7272 or email me at wendyloves3@yahoo.com.

Blessings and love, -Wendy Collins

Don’t miss out on this chance to have fun with your church family!



**CCNC-N
DISCIPLES
MEN**

2007 Men’s Retreat

NAVIGATING YOUR FAITH

St. Francis Retreat Center

549 Mission Vineyard road

P. o. Box 970

San Juan Bautista, Ca. 95045

Phone: 831-623-4234

When: September 28 –30

Presenters: Don Dewey & Don Shelton

Registration forms available in the church office. All registrations are due by September 15, 2007.

Resolution at General Assembly

Our ongoing sermon series, *Serve God, Save the Planet*, has been looking at helpful ways to fulfill our call to be stewards and caretakers of God's beautiful creation. Rather than being an alarmist call of despair, this will be a hopeful invitation to reimagine the way we live.

To that end, earlier this year, First Christian Church joined with Saint Andrew Christian Church in Olathe, Kansas in sponsoring a resolution presented at General Assembly in July. *Concerning a Movement to Reconnect with our Food and the Natural World, Concerning a Movement to Reconnect with our Food and the Natural World* encourages addressing issues of food quality and community food security from a faith-based perspective by participation in sustainable, local food systems, including community gardens, sustainable small farms, and farmers markets. The resolution also urged support for national movements toward the passage of legislation requiring that a certain percentage of food consumed annually is sustainably produced locally.

After a lively debate, which included a statement of support from our own Russ Peterman, the resolution was adopted by the General Assembly delegates.

As people of the table, who recognize the spiritual and physical importance of our connection with the source of our food, eating is a moral choice. To eat and drink is an act of communion, a witness to creation. The resolution addresses our need to be aware of the source of our food and water, how far they have traveled to our table, how they were produced, and how the workers and animals that produced what we eat and drink were treated.

A copy of the resolution can be found at <http://www.disciples.org/ga/resolutions/0720>, or ask Greg Hile for more information.



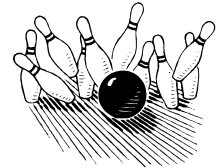
FCC Bowling League:

Bowling will resume in September on September 9 at Paddock Bowl. We will have a short meeting at 5:30 and start bowling shortly afterwards. The league is in need of bowlers (regular bowlers and subs). Please contact Pat Twigg at pattwigg@comcast.net or 925-625-3686 and let her know if you are planning to bowl.

Bowlers— Pot Luck

Saturday August 11, 2007, 3:00 PM at the Rishell's. Respond to Pat Rishell (krishell@astound.net) and she will let you know what to bring. Ken and Pat will provide hamburgers and hot dogs.

Bring bathing suit and your own beverage.



Directory Correction

Please note the correct email address for Ruth Langley

rcduffy@aol.com

Thank You

I'd like to thank the congregation for their love and prayers for the loss of my husband on July 24th.

Your love and cards helped me and my family through a very hard time.

I love you all.

Judy Van Sickle

BART Tickets

Do you have old BART tickets with a few dollars or a few cents? We have a place for them. CWF will collect remnant BART tickets to be redeemed for Warm Winter Nights. Please look for boxes in the office and narthex. This is easy for us, and a great help to the clients of Warm Winter Nights. Questions? Linda Smith at 689-3987 or lassmith@aol.com.

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:

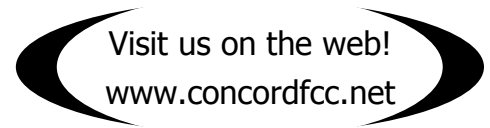
Senior Minister:	Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman	russ@concordfcc.net
Director of Youth Ministry:	Claire Richardson	claire@concordfcc.net
Office Manager:	Emrys Lloyd-Roberts	emrys@concordfcc.net
Organist:	Robert Coslett	
Custodian:	Daniel Blanton	
Website:	www.concordfcc.net	

Contact Information:

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 8 am—4 pm
Phone: 925-685-7503 Fax: 925-685-0963
Address: 3039 Willow Pass Rd., Concord CA 94519

CROSSROADS

Email submissions and subscriptions to: info@concordfcc.net
Submission deadline for next issue: Monday August 20, 2007 11:00 a.m.



All submissions are subject to editing!

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, August 12, 2007

Greg Hile preaching
9:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
10:00 am—Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary

Monday, August 13

2:00 pm—Staff Meeting
7:00 pm—Rachel Ruth Circle / Library

Tuesday, August 14

9:30 am—Mary Martha Circle / Library
12:00 noon—Diving Deeper Group / Church Office
1:00 pm—Homelessness Task Force / Library

Wednesday, August 15

6:00 pm—Spiritual Formation Team / Library
7:00 pm—NOOMA/ Russ Peterman's home

Thursday, August 16

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office

Saturday, August 18

8:30 am—House and Grounds / Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 19, 2007

9:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
10:00 am—Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am—Worship / Sanctuary
6:00 pm—Super Sunday Summer series

Monday, August 20

2:00 pm—Staff Meeting

Tuesday, August 21

12:00 noon—Diving Deeper Group / Church Office

Thursday, August 23

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office

Saturday, August 25

9:00 am—Elders Retreat
4:00 pm—Homeless Shelter Meals / Kitchen